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Work begins to install new lifts at Smethwick Rolfe Street

Major upgrade work to install new passenger lifts at Smethwick Rolfe Street station is due to get under way next week.

The £6.1m Network Rail investment, part of the Government's 'Access for All' scheme, will see two new lifts installed to provide step-free access to platforms one and two for the first time.

This will help customers with reduced mobility, families with prams and those carrying heavy luggage.

The improvements will start on Monday 10 January and are due to be complete by July 2022.

Leanne Brooks, sponsor for Network Rail, said:

“We’re really excited to be starting this work to provide lifts to platforms at Smethwick Rolfe Street which will provide step-free access to trains for everyone in the local community for the first time.

“We are working closely with the station operator, West Midlands Railway and Sandwell Council to ensure our work brings as little disruption as possible to neighbours and passengers.”

Brenda Lawrence, head of stations for West Midlands Railway, said:

“Making sure the railway is accessible for everyone is a priority for us and these improvements will make a real difference to our customers.

“Train services will continue to run as usual throughout the work and we are already looking forward to unveiling these brand new facilities in 2022.”

There will be no disruption to train services while work takes place, but the station will look different with hoardings up around the construction site.

However, a lane on Tollhouse Way will need to be closed at certain times during the project:

- Monday 10 – Wednesday 12 January for preparation work
- Saturday 30 April, Saturday 7 May and Saturday 14 May for a crane to lower the new lift shafts into position

The major station upgrade is due to be finished by July 2022 and has been funded by the Department of Transport’s ‘Access for All’ programme.

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast Main Line to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street and Birmingham Snow Hill.

For more information on these services visit westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

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