



METRO FUTURES

Metro Futures 2020: Participant Information Sheet

You are invited to take part in research that collects your thoughts on the design of future Tyne and Wear Metro trains. Before you decide whether to participate it is important you understand what the research is, and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask one of the researchers if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

This study is being led by Simon Bowen and Alexander Wilson from Newcastle University's Open Lab.

About Metro Futures

The Tyne and Wear Metro is a vital part of commuter, leisure and visitor travel for many people in North East England. It is the busiest urban rail system in the UK outside London, carrying around 40 million passengers a year. Although the Metro has always stood for innovation, after nearly four decades its train fleet will soon need to be replaced.

Nexus, the public body which owns and manages Metro, has been awarded funding to renew their train fleet. Stadler have been appointed as the train manufacturer. As part of the process, Stadler have designed Metro trains that address many of the suggestions raised during a previous public consultation Open Lab ran in 2016.

Metro Futures 2020 aims to involve people in designing the final options for the trains, and to provide people with an opportunity to provide their views on the new design. This new train fleet will be around for decades to come and Nexus wants to ensure its design reflects the wants and needs of people across the community, and throughout their lives.

To do this, Nexus has partnered with Open Lab at Newcastle University to work with people across Tyne and Wear to finalise the design of the new Metro trains.

What is the project's purpose?

The project aims to understand your thoughts on the new Metro trains. We are working with Nexus to collect people's views on the proposed design. To do this there are different ways you can become involved.

Why have I been chosen?



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You have been chosen as you've expressed an interest in sharing your thoughts on Metro, have been identified by either Nexus or the researchers in having a vital understanding of Metro, or have arrived here from one of the links we have previously shared.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is entirely voluntary. There is no expectation that you will participate, and you are free to withdraw from the research at any time. You do not have to give a reason. To do so, please contact us (details below).

What will happen if I take part?

You will be asked to give your thoughts on the design of Metro trains by choosing an online activity that suits how involved you want to be – there are methods that allow you to give your thoughts quickly, and there are others that are more involved. You can choose whether you want to do any, some, or all of these. Any activities you do undertake make a useful contribution to the project. Your comments will be anonymised (your name will be removed, as well as any personally identifiable information) and all comments will be passed to Nexus.

What are the disadvantages of taking part?

Participating in the research is not anticipated to cause you any disadvantages or discomfort. The potential physical and/or psychological harm or distress will be the same as any experienced in everyday life. Please be aware that some of the online activities may require a good internet connection and/or use data allowance.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We hope that the design work we do together will make sure the future Metro trains fit the needs of people across Tyne and Wear for many years to come. We also hope that you will benefit through having a direct input into Metro's future, and build your confidence and experience as a result. We hope to benefit as researchers in working with you in learning how to better enable people to influence the design of public services, such as transport, using the tools we have created.

You'll get to explore the future design of the Metro, and get a first look at the Metro trains. You will be able to give your thoughts on Metro train design, and we will feed this back to Nexus.

What information will you collect?



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On the Metro Futures website, we will collect your responses to questions about the new trains. We will record online workshops (audio and video) which will then be transcribed with your name and any other personally identifiable information removed. We will only collect personally identifiable information (your email address) if you are interested in being involved in later research. No personally identifiable information will be published. This information will be stored at Newcastle University on secure servers.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

The results will be used to inform the future design of the Metro. These results will be given to Nexus in a report. Open Lab may also publish the results as part of academic papers. You will not be personally identified in any reports or publications.

What happens if I no longer want to take part?

You can stop taking part in the research at any point, without giving reasons. We respect your decision and you will not be questioned on why you don't want to take part.

Contacts for further information

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Thank you for agreeing to take part in this study. Your contribution is very much appreciated.