

MetroBus M3 Launch – May 2018

A FOSBR contingent rode the M3 MetroBus out and in during the free launch phase at the end of May. We had the following observations.

The bus shoots fast up the M32 but then crawls across the bus-only M32 bridge and junction, loops through the UWE campus and then wriggles through the Lyde Green housing estate. It terminates in the Emersons Green Sainsburys car park. The bus lanes are non-continuous so time is wasted at J1 roundabout and on approach to Cabot Circus. In short it doesn't particularly feel like a rapid transit solution.

Fellow passengers in the first week were mostly trippers such as ourselves including a couple riding the bus back and forth to "make a day of it", a lad who knew all the bus unit numbers (we were on the 36803 apparently) and an older lady who enquired if we were on rails. This perhaps indicates that the public don't really care about mode of locomotion as long as a rapid transit corridor works effectively as such.

Let's hope the journey time of 35 minutes from Emerson's Green to the Centre is sufficiently appealing to attract adequate numbers of fare-paying passengers.

Route map and timetable can be found here:

<https://metrobusbristol.co.uk>

