

- In 1974 work started on Metro - the largest city transportation project in Britain
- By 1975 two prototype passenger trains (known as Metrocars) had begun trials at a purpose built test centre that now is the site of the Stephenson Railway Museum
- 5.4km (3.3 miles) of tunnels were built in the city centres of Newcastle and Gateshead
- New viaducts were built to cross the Tyne and Ouseburn valleys
- Metro opened to the public in August 1980 - it was Britain's first light rapid transit system
- Metro was formally opened by Her Majesty, The Queen on November 6, 1981
- Metro was opened in phases to 1984 when the full 55km (34 miles) of the original network became operational
- In 1991 Metro was extended to Newcastle Airport, a 4km (2.5 miles) link which still gives the shortest journey time between an airport and a city centre in Britain
- The 18.5km (11.5 miles) extension of the Metro to Sunderland and South Hylton was opened by Her Majesty, The Queen on May 7 2002

