



Light Rail Transit Association

Advocating modern tramways and urban light rail transit

Established 1937, incorporated 2004

PRESS RELEASE

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LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT ASSOCIATION COMMENDS 'TRAM-TRAIN' MOVES

Reports of forthcoming UK introduction are a major step to quality transport, while West Midlands 'lightweight rail' points the way.

The Light Rail Transit Association has applauded the UK transport industry's recently-disclosed interest in 'tram-train' technology, and the decision to adopt environmentally-friendly 'lightweight rail' on a West Midlands branch line under new railway franchising arrangements.

The Department for Transport has agreed with transport operator Govia that, under the new London Midland franchise, Parry People Movers railcars will be used on the short branch between Stourbridge Junction and Stourbridge Town. The efficient gas-powered 'PPM' system ran a successful experimental service in 2005-06, resulting in a calculated reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 80% compared to conventional diesel trains. This technology can be adapted to operate either on railway lines or on tramways with relatively low numbers of passengers.

Recent reports have also indicated that 'tram-trains' - higher-capacity vehicles which can run from existing railway lines on to city streets - are being seriously considered for adoption in the UK. Examples in continental Europe have been highly successful at offering an attractive public alternative to the private car.

David Russell, the LRTA's chairman, said: "Tram-train will be a major step towards high quality public transport, while the Parry People Movers decision is a bold move by the new operator and the Government showing they're really pursuing British innovation. The Light Rail Transit Association applauds both moves towards making our transport network more attractive, more efficient and more accessible."

For more information about the Light Rail Transit Association, its activities and the benefits of high-quality public transport, visit www.lrta.org.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The Light Rail Transit Association is the world's leading organisation campaigning for better public transport through light rail, tramway and metro systems in our towns and cities for nearly 70 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail.

2. The LRTA acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their localities.

3. Membership of the LRTA costs just over 10p a day. To join, visit www.lrta.org or write to the Membership Secretary, LRTA, 38 Wolseley Road, Sale, Greater Manchester, M33 7AU. Members of the LRTA receive the monthly magazine *Tramways & Urban Transit* - written and read by experts in the field - and gain other benefits including discounts on videos and books, tours of transport systems and cut-price admission to selected transport sites.

4. Press enquiries - please contact:

Geoff Lusher, Deputy Chairman, Light Rail Transit Association
86 Heritage Court, Warstone Lane, Birmingham, B18 6HU
Telephone 07768 457911 E-mail glusher@lrta.org

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