

TramForward

PRESS RELEASE FROM TRAMFORWARD

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GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE "WOEFUL" SAYS LRТА PRESIDENT

Benefits of light rail unrealised

At a well attended conference on Light Rail in Docklands last weekend the government's performance was described as "woeful" by the President of the Light Rail Transit Association, Mike Parker.

Opening the conference on the morning of Friday 2nd November, he expressed incredulity that John Prescott's Ten Year Plan, formulated in 2000, was still government transport policy. "The much welcomed pledge to properly integrate local public transport outside London had patently not been delivered," he said.

He bemoaned the lack of progress in even achieving one fifth of the 25 new light rail routes proposed in the plan noting that "the picture is very different on the continent with France and Spain boasting 18 new light rail lines opened just in the last 7 years."

The venue in Docklands provided a perfect example of the benefits of light rail, the Docklands Light Railway system having made possible the economic regeneration of a whole swathe of east London.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. *TramForward* is the campaigning arm of the **Light Rail Transit Association**.
2. 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 70 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail.
3. The LRТА acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their localities.
4. Membership of the LRТА costs under 12p a day. To join, visit www.lrta.org or write to the Membership Secretary, LRТА, 38 Wolseley Road, Sale, Greater Manchester, M33 7AU. Members of the LRТА 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.
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