

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

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***TramForward* WELCOMES MANCHESTER METROLINK EXPANSION**

Light rail growth provides a model for other UK cities.

Light rail campaign TramForward has warmly welcomed the announcement of funding pledged by the Department for Transport to expand Manchester's 'Metrolink' tram system to include Oldham, Rochdale and Chorlton.

The Metrolink system has been hugely successful since opening in 1992; it currently carries 20 million passengers every year - more than the whole of Greater Manchester's conventional railway network - and has prompted urban regeneration throughout the city. In addition, Metrolink has brought about a proven reduction in road traffic on the corridors it serves.

"This is great news for Manchester and puts the city well on the road to providing a 21st century transport system that responds to today's environmental challenges," said TramForward's Geoff Lusher. "Since it opened, Metrolink has shown what high-quality public transport can do for cities, and its ability to reduce road traffic will be shown again on the new routes. The Manchester authorities and the Government are to be applauded for investing in Metrolink's expansion.

"We also look forward to early announcements of the proposed further extensions into Rochdale and Oldham town centres, and on to Wythenshawe and Manchester Airport, East Didsbury and Stockport."

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 LRTA acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their localities.
4. Membership of the LRTA costs under 12p 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.
5. 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