

# **TramForward**

## *Campaigning for Light Rail*

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

14th September 2008

### **TramForward CAMPAIGNING AT MAJOR PARTY CONFERENCES**

TramForward opened the light rail event at the Liberal Democratic party conference on 14th September.

A fringe meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group, was addressed by TramForward's Martin Petch as the first speaker. He was followed by presentations by political and transport industry representatives. The meeting was chaired by Lib Dem MP Paul Rowen, chair of the APPLRG.

The points made by TramForward included the difficulties faced by light rail promoters in the UK, including the impact of centralised funding and decision-making and lengthy planning processes. These and other factors have contributed to faltering progress in implementing modern transport systems in the UK.

Reaction to Mr Petch's presentation was very positive, with frustration expressed at the problems met by light rail schemes, which have been so successful in other countries.

'Light rail development will make Britain's cities cleaner, less congested, more attractive and more vibrant,' said TramForward's Geoff Lusher. 'We are taking that message to the major political parties, because modern tramways offer so much. Places like Manchester and Nottingham are already demonstrating the advantages that light rail systems bring, yet so often plans for new systems get held up for too long.'

TramForward will be making presentations at similar events to be held on 23rd September at the Labour party conference in Manchester and on 30th September the Conservative party conference in Birmingham.

### 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](http://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.
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