

# **TramForward**

## *Campaigning for Light Rail*

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

26th September 2008

### **Light rail campaign continues with Labour in Manchester**

*TramForward* opened the light rail event at the Labour party conference on 23rd September..

A fringe meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group, was addressed by TramForward's Jim Harkins as the first speaker. He was followed by presentations by political and transport industry representatives. The meeting was chaired by Graham Stringer MP.

The points made by TramForward included the difficulties faced by light rail promoters in the UK. These contrast with the clear benefits felt by cities where modern tramways are implemented, of which Manchester is a prime example - with significant expansion of its Metrolink system now underway.

Over seventy people listened to Mr Harkins's presentation, which described the economic, social, environmental and health benefits of comprehensive urban public transport with light rail at its heart.

"Light rail development regenerates cities, bringing new business and new jobs," said TramForward's Geoff Lusher. "At the same time, it is an exemplar of green growth - reducing energy use and carbon emissions while increasing travel opportunities work, leisure and tourism. If we are serious about reducing congestion and pollution in our cities, trams are the way forward."

TramForward made a presentation at a similar event on 14th September at the Liberal Democrat conference in Bournemouth, and a further meeting will be held on 30th September at the Conservative party conference in Birmingham.

#### NOTES

Fringe meetings of the All-Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group at the three main party conferences are being sponsored by Stagecoach Light Rail.

#### 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.
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](mailto:glusher@lrta.org)

***TramForward - The campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association.***

A private company limited by Guarantee

Registered Office: 8 Berwick Place, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 4TU Great Britain Registered in England and Wales Company number 5072319