

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

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***TramForward* WELCOMES NEW TRANSPORT SECRETARY**

Light rail should be at the top of the in-tray, says campaign

Light rail campaign TramForward congratulates Geoff Hoon on his appointment to be the new Secretary of State for Transport, and calls for the development of modern light rail to be top of his agenda.

Modern tramways - such as those in Manchester, Croydon, Nottingham and Sheffield - and other light rail systems, like those in Tyne & Wear and London's Docklands, have transformed the economies of the areas they serve. Light rail is an excellent means of reducing environmental impact and energy use, as travelling by tram is highly efficient, and people's opportunities and prospects have been revolutionised by the presence of a new system in their areas. The economic, environmental and social advantages, compared to other forms of transport investment, have been demonstrated time and again.

TramForward is encouraging Mr Hoon to oversee faster progress towards the implementation of light rail in more of the UK's cities - bringing about faster regeneration and making UK cities better places to live, work and visit.

"We welcome the appointment of Mr. Hoon, and will be pressing for an early review by him of current light rail schemes, with the objective of giving a new impetus to the regeneration of our cities through the introduction of high quality, environmentally-friendly public transport. Only light rail can be successful in achieving this", said Geoff Lusher of TramForward. "Mr Hoon needs only to travel a short distance from his Nottinghamshire constituency to see the award winning Nottingham Express Transit - the most recent and most successful tramway in the UK."

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.
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