

# **TramForward**

## *Campaigning for Light Rail*

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

2nd December 2008

### ***TramForward* REACTS TO GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT PACKAGE**

'Disappointment' that light rail schemes not included

Light rail campaign *TramForward* is disappointed to see that the package of transport improvements announced on 25th November by Transport Secretary Geoff Hoon does not include any proposals for modern tramways. *TramForward* has criticised London Mayor Boris Johnson for leaving the London Cross-River Tram scheme and extensions to Croydon Tramlink out of his plans for transport in London, when these light rail lines would offer a radical improvement, as demonstrated in Croydon and the Docklands area.

The Government decision to boost investment in transport around the country would provide an ideal opportunity to revive the London schemes as well as extending the benefits of light rail in other cities such as Birmingham, Liverpool and Leeds where plans for modern tramways are well developed.

*TramForward* spokesman Geoff Lusher commented: "Other cities throughout Europe benefit from the use of trams on their most popular services, bringing significant environmental benefits to their citizens. And in London itself there are two excellent examples of light rail bringing radical improvements: in Croydon and Docklands. Investment in light rail brings proven benefits in improving transport, reducing congestion and pollution, and encouraging regeneration of cities. Now that the Government has recognised the value of transport investment, the time is ripe to approve these schemes and bring the benefits of light rail to British cities."

### 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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