

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

13 June 2009

TramForward welcomes funding for Blackpool upgrade

TramForward welcomes the news that the Government has granted full approval for the £100 million upgrade of the Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramway. The investment, announced by newly appointed Transport Minister Sadiq Khan, comprises £68.3m from the Department for Transport and £33.4m from Blackpool Council and Lancashire.

The upgrade will see the transformation of Blackpool's historic tramway into a modern light rail system offering faster and more accessible transport to both residents and visitors.

TramForward hopes that this announcement is indicative of Government's intention to invest in modern transport infrastructure in cities throughout the United Kingdom.

Specifically, the upgrade will see the replacement of 8 km of track, the rebuilding tram stops to ensure Disability Discrimination Act compliance, the installation of 14 priority signals at highway junctions to improve journey times, the purchase of a fleet of 16 Bombardier trams and the building of a new tram depot to house the new fleet. The new trams will have low floors, thus be accessible to passengers with disabilities, and will offer shorter journey times on core services. Work is due to start in June 2009 and be completed in April 2012

Blackpool will retain a representative fleet of older vehicles along with their famous illuminated cars as an important tourist attraction.

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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