

# **TramForward**

## *Campaigning for Light Rail*

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

31 July 2009

### ***TramForward* CAUTIOUSLY WELCOMES MIDLAND METRO ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Government's agreement to provide funding for extending light rail system still dependent on 'successful business case'**

Light rail campaign TramForward has welcomed the government's support for the extensions to line one of Midland Metro in central Birmingham and Wolverhampton, recently announced by Transport Minister Sadiq Kahn. However, these extensions - to connect the system to Birmingham's main New Street station and to create a circuit around the centre of Wolverhampton - are dependent on the submission of 'a successful business case'.

TramForward also draws attention to the extremely early stage of development of light rail in Birmingham, whereas the city's rival Manchester has already started a massive expansion of its tram system. Even the redevelopment of New Street station will provide little if any extra capacity to the local transport systems.

'As the extensions are not yet guaranteed, we're not breaking out the champagne at the moment.' said TramForward's Geoff Lusher. 'The difference between Greater Manchester and the West Midlands is marked, but good urban mobility is recognised around the world as a prerequisite for successful redevelopment and economic growth, and light rail is already proven as one of the best modes of transport.'

### **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 Wolsley 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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