

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

20 August 2009

TramForward welcomes Government support for light rail schemes

TramForward, the campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association, welcomes recent Government announcements on funding for light rail schemes across the country. In their approval of Regional Funding Allocations, the Department for Transport has approved funding for -

- Manchester Metrolink extensions from Chorlton to East Didsbury and Droylsden to Ashton-under-Lyne;
- £78m for Midland Metro extensions through the city centres of Birmingham and Wolverhampton;
- £530m for extensions to Nottingham Express Transit to Clifton and Beeston-Chilwell;
- Four new vehicles for Sheffield Supertram;
- New vehicles and track upgrades for the Blackpool Tramway.

In addition, the Government has announced support for a number of other public transport improvements, including rail improvements in the West Midlands, Liverpool-Manchester and Tees Valley. They will also support bus rapid transit schemes in Luton, Bristol and Leeds - the last being a replacement for the Leeds Supertram scheme which, *TramForward* believes, would have represented better value for money.

Commenting on the announcements, *TramForward* Chairman Geoff Lusher said "Taken together, these announcements show a welcome level of Government support for light rail which has been sadly lacking in recent years. These improvements will enable people in many more areas to enjoy the benefits of improved public transport, reduced congestion and urban regeneration which light rail has shown it can produce."

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

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