

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

9 February 2010

***TramForward* welcomes the sustainable Glasgow report**

TramForward welcomes the publication of the recent report by Sustainable Glasgow, a consortium led by the University of Strathclyde, on how the city aims to become one of Europe's most sustainable cities in the next 10 years, by driving down carbon emissions and meeting the city's future energy needs.

Amongst a wide range of proposed initiatives, from district heating to encouraging electric vehicles, the report recommends evaluation of a tram network, for mixed passenger and freight use, largely in the pedestrian areas, such as between Queen Street and Central stations

Experience in cities all over the world has shown the compatibility of trams with pedestrian areas and the report also suggests that a lighter form of construction than that so far used on UK light rail systems could be employed, reducing both cost and disruption during construction.

The report also recommends the consideration of future integration of this city centre tram system with routes reserved for Fastlink. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Glasgow City Council are developing proposals for Clyde Fastlink, a dedicated bus system serving key locations in the city but which is designed to be capable of being upgraded to light rail.

The use of the tram system for freight delivery within the central area would be a new departure for modern UK tramways, although the idea has been taken up in some other European cities, such as Dresden and Zürich.

The report is extremely ambitious but represents possibly a first attempt in this country to address the future development of a city in terms of energy use and environment in a unified way. The total capital cost of all the proposals is put at £1.5bn, of which the tram system would cost up to £90m.

Geoff Lusher, Chairman of Light Rail Transit Association, said "This report is particularly important in that it addresses urban transport as part of the overall city structure and recognises the part that trams can play in stimulating urban redevelopment and improving the environment."

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.
5. Press enquiries - please contact:

Brian S. Lomas, Development Officer, Light Rail Transit Association
7 Crofton Avenue, Horfield, Bristol BS7 0BP
Telephone: 0117 951 7785
E-mail: development@lrta.org

Geoff Lusher, Chairman, Light Rail Transit Association
86 Heritage Court, Warstone Lane, Birmingham, B18 6HU
Telephone: 07768 457911
E-mail: glusher@lrta.org