

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

9 February 2010

TramForward welcomes new rail report for Wales

TramForward welcomes the publication of the report "Future railway infrastructure in Wales" by the Enterprise and Learning Committee of the National Assembly for Wales.

The report recommends that the Welsh Government "work with relevant partners to commission feasibility studies for developing light rail networks in the main urban areas of Cardiff, Swansea and Newport, which should include consideration of how to integrate such systems with existing heavy rail infrastructure".

Geoff Lusher, Chairman of Light Rail Transit Association said "It is encouraging that trams and light rail are now receiving serious attention in government circles as a means of reducing congestion and improving the environment in major cities. If light rail systems were to be developed in the three major Welsh urban areas as part of a coordinated programme, it could lead to significant savings in equipment procurement."

The report looks overall at the rail system in Wales and the emphasis is therefore on the use of TramTrains in order to make fuller use of the existing rail infrastructure without jeopardising its continuing use for freight movements.

In spite of this, however, it is disappointing that, with a remit "to consider further use of light rail in urban areas", the report does not make even passing reference to the proposals for low cost trams that have previously been put forward for the North Wales resort towns of Llandudno, Colwyn Bay and Rhyl.

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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