

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

11 February 2010

***TramForward* welcomes Nexus support package**

TramForward congratulates Nexus, owners of the Tyne & Wear Metro, on the award by the Government of a £580 million support package.

The larger part of the money will be spent on an eleven year modernisation programme and the remainder will support running and maintenance costs.

The modernisation will cover upgrading stations and replacement of track, bridges and cabling as well as the refurbishment of the entire rolling stock fleet.

Geoff Lusher, Chairman of LRTA said "It is encouraging to see further evidence of government commitment to supporting light rail. This programme will see the complete modernisation of the Tyne & Wear Metro, which was the pioneering modern UK light rail system."

As part of the funding settlement a new contractor, DB Regio Tyne & Wear Limited, has been appointed to operate stations and trains on behalf of Nexus from 1 April 2010. Nexus will continue to own the Metro and will set fares and specify service levels.

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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