

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

23 March 2010

TramForward welcomes initial approval for Midland Metro expansion.

TramForward welcomes the announcement made by Transport Minister Chris Mole of initial approval by the Department for Transport for Midland Metro's £127.1 million expansion scheme.

The Government has indicated its willingness to provide £81 million towards the cost of the scheme, which includes an extension from Snow Hill through the centre of Birmingham to New Street Station, fleet replacement and depot enhancement.

TramForward's Geoff Lusher said "this a major advance for public transport in Birmingham and will greatly increase the attractiveness of Midland Metro line 1 by improving access to Birmingham city centre and New Street Station. We look forward to the development of further lines into central Birmingham to create a high quality light rail network to tackle the second city's chronic traffic congestion problems."

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