

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

18 June 2010

***TramForward* welcomes address to All-Party Group**

TramForward welcomes the positive note struck by Norman Baker, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, in an address to a meeting of parliamentarians and representatives of the light rail industry, which was sponsored by the All-Party Parliamentary Light Group (APPLRG) at the House of Commons on Tuesday, 15 June.

Despite the current financial situation and the suspension, pending review, of most of the Department for Transport's current proposals, Mr Baker was upbeat about the long-term prospects for trams and light rail. Light rail can make a major contribution to the Government's objectives, particularly in relation to lowering carbon emissions, congestion and health problems caused by vehicle emissions.

TramForward acknowledges the part played by APPLRG in increasing the profile of light rail in government and regrets the loss at the recent election of Paul Rowan, who, as Chairman of the Group from its launch in 2007, did so much to promote light rail at Westminster. TramForward congratulates John Leech, Liberal-Democrat MP for Manchester, Withington, on taking over the chairmanship of APPLRG and Jim Harkins of Light Rail (UK), who will continue to provide the Group's secretariat for another three years.

TramForward is confident APPLRG will continue to provide sterling support for the cause of light rail in these difficult times.

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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