

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

8 September 2010

Ultra lightweight railcar shows that it is big enough for the job: Parry People Movers achieve their 500,000th passenger at Stourbridge

TramForward congratulates Parry People Movers Ltd. on the success of their ultra lightweight Class 139 railcars in carrying their 500,000th passenger on the Stourbridge Junction to Stourbridge Town branch in the West Midlands. The two railcars have been operating on the line since June 2009 when they replaced a conventional heavy-rail Class 153 Sprinter unit.

Although the Parry railcars carry only 60 passengers as opposed to the Sprinter's 85, their quicker turnaround and faster acceleration has meant that the service frequency has been able to be increased from four to six per hour in each direction. Passenger numbers have increased this summer by 20 per cent compared with the same period in 2009. The new railcars have also, since the beginning of 2010, achieved 99 per cent reliability.

The railcars use a flywheel to capture and store energy from braking, which eliminates the need for a large diesel engine. The small propane gas-powered engine powers up the vehicle initially, and tops up the flywheel as and when required throughout the journey. The two cars produce less than one third of the carbon emissions of the Sprinter unit they replaced.

The Chairman of the Light Rail Transit Association, Geoff Lusher, said "This is an important milestone for Parry People Movers and points the way to the use of this lightweight technology to bring the benefits of economic rail transport to more places."

Parry's are currently working on a larger, 100-seater version of the railcar to give sufficient capacity to work longer lines.

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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