

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

6 April 2011

TramForward welcomes Tramlink Nottingham

TramForward welcomes the news that the development of Lines Two and Three of the Nottingham tram system has taken a further step forward with the announcement that the City Council has selected Tramlink Nottingham as its preferred bidder to build the two new tram lines and operate the whole tram network

TramForward recognises that the unsuccessful bidder, current operator of the system, award-winning Arrow Consortium, has made a great success of the Nottingham tramway, consistently achieving over 99% service reliability. With two excellent consortia competing for the new contract it must be a hard decision for Nottingham City Council as promoter, but comforting to know that another award-winning local operator is involved in the preferred bidder's team

The Council will now enter a period during which it finalises the details of the contract with the preferred bidder. It is hoped that the 23 year concession contract will be signed soon to allow Tramlink Nottingham to take control of the existing Line One from 13 September 2011. Lines Two and Three of the tram network will take three years to construct at a cost of £600m.

We understand that as a result of this project

- Tramlink Nottingham will provide 23 Citadis trams in addition to the 15 Incentros already in operation in Nottingham
- The electrical supply to the city centre sections will be enhanced to permit 16 trams in each direction per hour.
- The total network will be increased to over 30km with 48 stops and 7 park and ride sites.
- This will link large employment sites, the main university campus, a large teaching hospital and several residential areas
- Within the last month and in anticipation of the tram extensions some £1.3Bn of inward investment into Nottingham has been announced
- Beeston town centre is to be completely rebuilt with a £30m plan placing the tram as centrepiece.

Tramlink Nottingham is a consortium of international companies which include:

- Vinci and its UK subsidiaries: Taylor Woodrow Construction and Norwest Holst
- French tram builder Alstom
- Keolis, a French-owned public transport operator of buses, trolleybuses and trams
- Trent Barton a local bus company with a long pedigree of serving the region

Beeston Councillor Steve Barber, Light Rail Campaigner of the Year 2010 said: "This is fantastic news for Beeston; we have worked for this for 10 years now. Trent Barton have run public transport services to Beeston for 93 years, they were the first bus company in the UK to use diesel buses, pioneered gas buses and are now firmly moving into 21st century modes of transport. Beeston town centre development can now move forward with a tram at the heart of our modern forward thinking vibrant community. The £1.3Bn investment elsewhere along the route is just the start. All our predictions are coming true!"

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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