

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM TramForward

30 August 2011

TramForward welcomes Special Council Meeting to review Edinburgh tram decision

TramForward welcomes the decision of the Lord Provost to convene a special meeting to review the recent Council decision to terminate the Edinburgh Tram at Haymarket.

Edinburgh Council may be interested in noting this month's latest statistics provided on light rail and tramways in England. Also the Scottish Government before it recalls any funding from the project.

The Department of Transport notes that:-

Light rail and tram passenger journeys in England increased by 5.5 per cent between 2009/10 and 2010/11. In 2010/11 there were 196.5 million passenger journeys. This represents the highest number of passenger journeys to date.

Light rail and tram vehicle miles in England increased by 1.8 per cent between 2009/10 and 2010/11. In 2010/11 there were 13.9 million vehicle miles

Light rail and tram passenger revenue in England increased by 9.0 per cent in real terms between 2009/10 and 2010/11, with four systems showing increases in excess of 10 per cent...

In 2010/11 there were 22.7 million concessionary boardings on light rail and tram systems. 11.6 per cent of all boardings are concessionary. Most light rail and tram schemes in England currently offer, on a statutory or discretionary basis, free off-peak travel to older and disabled residents in their local authority area.

Light rail and tram concessionary fare reimbursement from concessionary boardings in England increased by 1.6 per cent in real terms between 2009/10 and 2010/11

These are important statistics for Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Government to reflect on in the light of the forthcoming Council meeting

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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TramForward – The campaign arm of the Light rail Transit Association.

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