

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

14 October 2011

TramForward welcomes a Small Advance

TramForward welcomes the small investment of £40M by the Scottish Government in the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Fastlink initiative.

However Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) has had a chequered history in terms of cost and performance. Indeed the project itself is an example of that having taken some five years in design, approval and investment. For the sum invested by the Scottish Government and the SPT the monies could have been invested in a surface extension of the Glasgow Subway from Govan to the Southern General using former railway alignments and space adjacent to the M8 motorway. This would have tied in well with the £300M investment in the modernisation of the subway. The extra impetus of the finance would have allowed development of an interchange at West St, travelator passage along the side of Glasgow Low level to Central Station and connection to Buchanan Bus Station through the new Buchanan Galleries development.

TramForward wishes Fastlink well and hopes that if it is successful it uses as much reserved bus lane as possible, free of utilities so that conversion to light rail can be undertaken quickly and efficiently

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.lрта.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:

Jim Harkins, Chairman External Relations Group, LRTA
Auchenshuggle Junction,
8 Beechmoore, Moore,
Warrington WA4 6EU
Telephone: 01925 740675; 07721 378223
Email: lightrailuk@aol.com

Iain MacDonald, LRTA Regional Officer,
Scotland,
168 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3LT
Tel: 0141 8878755; 07711 584911
Email: iain.macdonald2@ntlworld.com