

# **TramForward**

## *Campaigning for Light Rail*

**PRESS RELEASE FROM** *TramForward*

**19 February 2012**

### ***TramForward* welcomes Midland Metro announcement**

*TramForward* welcomes the announcement from the Department for Transport of the full and final approval for the expansion of Midland Metro.

This covers the extension of the line from Snow Hill Station through Birmingham city centre to New Street Station, replacement of the tram fleet and an enlarged maintenance depot at Wednesbury.

The Department for Transport will provide £75.4m towards the £128 million cost of the scheme which is being led by Centro, the region's transport authority, in partnership with Birmingham City Council and the Black Country district authorities.

Work on the extension is already underway with the recent completion of the Great Charles Street Bridge adjacent to Snow Hill Station; while there was an announcement earlier this month that Spanish manufacturer CAF was the preferred bidder for supply of 19 to 25 of its Urbos trams.

The depot works are scheduled to be complete by the summer of next year, in time for delivery of the new trams from the beginning of 2014 until early 2015, when the city centre extension is due to open.

### **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 75 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 about 12p a day. To join, visit [www.lrta.org](http://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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