

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

2 March 2012

***TramForward* looks to rapid progress on Wirral Tramway**

TramForward welcomes the Wirral Tramway proposals made by Merseytravel. The mix of a modern tramway and a tourist operation as proposed for Wirral has already been pioneered to great success in San Francisco and there are now over 50 similar schemes across the US.

The Wirral Waters developer, Peel Holdings, has demonstrated its support; funding part of the development work, offering half the cost of the current financial consultants' review and making very generous offers of land and other assistance to facilitate tramway works.

The up to date section of the tramway will speed development of Wirral Waters, bringing jobs, customers and increasing local rates income as well as having a huge range of environmental benefits.

When the government held its "Tram Summit" in November of 2011 the challenge was to find schemes that gave large benefits and could be implemented at an affordable cost in a time of austerity. The Wirral Tramway is just such a scheme.

Success on Merseyside can demonstrate to other councils innovative ways to pull their areas out of recession. Merseytravel, Peel and their advisers are to be praised for the imagination shown by this scheme.

TramForward hopes that all the parties to this scheme can now move ahead towards a rapid implementation of the project.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Wirral Waters

1. For details of Merseyside Transport Preservation Society see www.mtps.co.uk/
2. For details of the San Francisco F line see www.streetcar.org/
3. For details of the Wirral Waters development see www.wirralwaters.co.uk/
4. For details of Tram Summit see www.applrguk.co.uk

TramForward

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 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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