

# **TramForward**

## *Campaigning for Light Rail*

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

24 May 2013

### **Metrolink opens early to East Didsbury**

*TramForward* congratulates Transport for Greater Manchester on opening the new extension of Manchester Metrolink to East Didsbury several months ahead of schedule.

The first passengers took the tram from the East Didsbury stop early on Thursday, 23 May. The 4.4km (2.7 miles) extension to the South Manchester line has new stops at Withington, Burton Road, West Didsbury, Didsbury Village and East Didsbury. From East Didsbury, which has a 300-space park and ride facility, the trams offer a thirty minute journey to central Manchester every 12 minutes.

The extension brings the total size of the Metrolink network to 73.4km (45.6 miles) and by the time new lines to Ashton (winter 2013/14), Oldham and Rochdale town centres (2014), and Manchester Airport via Wythenshawe (2016) are complete, the network will 95km (59 miles), a more than threefold increase over the size of the original network when it opened in 1992.

Andrew Braddock, Chairman of the Light Rail Transit Association, said "It is excellent news for the people of Manchester that these new Metrolink lines will substantially improve the quality of the city's public transport system, delivering a sustainable alternative to the car and reducing environmental pollution in the corridors served".

In addition to the above extensions, a second, 1.6km (1 mile) line through Manchester city centre is being progressed.

### **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 15p 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.

5. Press enquiries - please contact:

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