

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

24 June 2013

***TramForward* welcomes long-awaited TramTrain project.**

TramForward is pleased to welcome the long awaited signing-off of the Sheffield – Rotherham TramTrain project. The announcement was made in Sheffield last Wednesday by the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Transport, Norman Baker.

The TramTrains will use the existing heavy rail line, which will be electrified, from Rotherham Parkgate via Rotherham Central to Meadowhall South, where it will link with the Sheffield Supertram system to reach the city centre.

The seven TramTrain vehicles, which are to be built by Vossloh, will be dual voltage (750v DC + 25kv AC) against the possible future electrification of the heavy rail section to main-line standards. The project will allow the trialling in the UK of the TramTrain concept of vehicles which can run on main railway lines as well as local light rail and tram lines, a very successful concept which has been in operation in a number of mainland European locations for some years.

There has been some frustration amongst transport authorities and the light rail industry that this trial project has taken so long to materialise, having been first proposed as early as 2008 but it is to be hoped that the TramTrains, which are due to start operation in 2016, will be a success and that the pent-up demand for TramTrain services in other UK city regions, such as Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester, can be satisfied.

LRTA Chairman Andrew Braddock said “whilst it is good to know that the Sheffield – Rotherham trial is finally confirmed with the new vehicle order now signed-off by the Minister, it is a little frustrating to find that common practice in other EU Member States cannot simply be automatically followed in Britain”.

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 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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