

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

8 April 2014

TramForward welcomes County Council's transport plan for Oxford

TramForward is pleased to note that Oxfordshire County Council's forward-looking plan "Connecting Oxfordshire" includes the possibility of "mass transit" for Oxford as a means of reducing congestion and pollution in the city centre caused by cars and buses.

TramForward urges the Council to opt for the proven technology of tram or light rail rather than more exotic proprietary modes.

As has been found in most French cities, as well as many other places worldwide, the modern tram has a transformational effect on quality of life and the urban environment and in a city which is growing in population but has reached the limit of what successful bus services can achieve, it is not surprising that Oxford is looking to advance its public transport to the next level.

Experience elsewhere has also shown the tram to be the mode of transport most compatible with city centre pedestrianisation as, being rail-borne, it follows a predictable path. It is also the cleanest, remembering that polluting particulates come from wear of tyres and road surfaces as well as vehicle exhausts.

Andrew Braddock, LRTA Chairman, said "it is good to know that Oxfordshire is looking beyond the existing bus-based system in the beautiful city of Oxford, and I am sure that the introduction of trams would boost the local economy, enhance property values and get a lot more people out of their cars". "With many urban areas in the UK now subject to EU fines for failing to improve air quality, the time has come to put the tram centre stage".

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. **TramForward** is the campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association (LRTA).
2. The LRTA is the world's leading organisation campaigning for better public transport in urban areas through light rail, tramway and metro systems and has been in existence for more than 75 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail and TramTrain technology.
3. The LRTA acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their areas.
4. Membership of the LRTA costs less than 14p a day. To join, visit www.lrta.org or write to the Membership Secretary, LRTA, 38 Wolseley Road, Sale, Greater Manchester, M33 7AU. Members 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 museums.
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