

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

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TramForward commends UKTram report

TramForward commends the latest report from UKTram, which was launched at the All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group (APPLRG) Parliamentary tea at the House of Commons on Wednesday 18 June.

The report entitled “An investigation into the economic impacts on cities of investment in light rail” was prepared by Professor Richard Knowles of Salford University and Dr Fiona Ferbrache of Oxford University and reviews evidence from cities in the UK and around the world to show how light rail investment can have economic, social and environmental benefits.

Light rail and tram systems can stimulate inward investment, help in the development of derelict and run-down areas and stimulate regeneration, increasing property values, increasing accessibility and generally boosting the image of the city.

The positive effects are maximised when the new system forms part of a Transit-oriented Development (TOD), in which the coordinated planning of transport, housing, employment and public services is ensured. This approach has been successfully adopted in many parts of the world.

Among the recommendations of the report are the general adoption of TOD, developing a mechanism to capture increases in property values and modifying the appraisal of transport systems to place much more emphasis on long term economic, social and environmental benefits.

LRTA Chairman Andrew Braddock said “it is good to see this report supporting what my Association has been saying for many years. Now we need the next UK government to take tram and light rail investment seriously so that the quality of life in our cities and towns can start to catch up with the high standards achieved in other EU member states.” “Trams make huge sense if we are to tackle climate change by reducing on-street pollution, minimising car use and enhancing accessibility of public transport for all”, he added.

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 Wolsley 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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