

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

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TramForward welcomes the Combined Authority approach to transport integration

TramForward has welcomed the fact that five important urban areas have set up Combined Authorities and a further five have now opted for this approach. This is seen as a major step forward in enabling regional mobility strategies which transcend archaic political boundaries and enable local conurbations to sort out the best transport arrangements for their areas.

Andrew Braddock, Chairman of the LRTA, echoed the comments of former Chairman of the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board, Steve Barber, who recently said: "In Nottingham we have a very successful tram system which is the centrepiece of an integrated transport structure. However, the process is rapidly becoming pot-bound as the tentacles reach out into the suburbs and into other authority areas. We operated a very successful Joint Planning Advisory Board comprising 8 authorities in the conurbation, but its role was just advisory. Now is the time to give this teeth, move forward with statutory powers and get things done. We need to get our trams extended further into Nottinghamshire and into Derbyshire and Leicestershire. We must embrace the opportunities presented by HS2 and ensure people can get from where they are to where they want to be, even if this involves crossing political boundaries".

"Our political boundaries," Andrew Braddock added, "have nothing to do with modern demographics and the demand for ease of movement in urban areas. It's time we modernised and combined smaller authorities together to provide systems and infrastructure fit for the 21st Century. If we don't then we shall soon, as a nation, be left behind."

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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