

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

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TramForward welcomes the desire for East Midlands Airport to have a rail connection.

Some years ago, East Midlands Parkway station was built to partially serve this market, but is too far away from the airport to be attractive, and the railway station has significantly failed to attract passengers.

The Light Rail Transit Association (LRTA) believes that the airport would be much better served by use of TramTrains. These would run into the airport on a dedicated track, and could connect to the Midland Mainline both north and south. In the northerly direction, TramTrains could run to Toton, the site of the future HS2 East Midlands station.

At Toton, a connection could be made to the extended Nottingham Express Transit (NET) system, which would give a good distribution around the Nottingham area.

In the southerly direction, TramTrains could run to Leicester via Loughborough, operating on-street into Leicester city centre to form the basis of a larger Leicester area network. It has been proposed that the Leicester to Burton-on-Trent railway is reopened to passengers; this again would be better served by TramTrains to improve passenger distribution in Leicester.

This leaves Derby. A light rail line should be built westwards from Toton to Derby which would take both airport and HS2 traffic. It would also allow through Nottingham –Derby trams, which would help to relieve the overloaded A52 road. The LRTA has already produced outline proposals for a Derby tramway system.

We now have the basis of an East Midlands light rail system that would do much to improve connectivity and promote economic growth throughout the region.

The LRTA urges politicians and business leaders in the region to work together and have the vision to create a better East Midlands.

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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