

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM TramForward

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Kimberley Tram Group welcomes HS2 announcement

Kimberley, Eastwood and Nuthall Tram Action Group (KENTAG) cautiously welcomed today's announcement of the route that the northern section of HS2 will follow, including confirmation of the location for a station at Toton to serve Derby and Nottingham. This is seen as the seed which will deliver a network of light rail routes throughout the region.

Broxtowe Councillor Richard Robinson said; "Whilst today's news is very good for the prosperity of the East Midlands, we must ensure that construction is planned carefully and allows for other projects. We are particularly concerned that provision is made for the Kimberley and Eastwood tramline. I have received assurances that this will be allowed for at the design stage, and I want that set in stone."

"Connectivity is vital for business and the creation of jobs. Now we know that the East Midlands will join the High Speed rail club we want to ensure that the prosperity it brings is shared out and doesn't stop at Phoenix Park and the Nottingham city boundary"

"The M1, although vital for north-south connectivity, is a barrier to east-west development. The Nuthall roundabout creates a serious disincentive for firms to locate westwards. Just to the north is an underused bridge which could easily carry a light rail line with the capacity of at least a dual carriageway road."

Andrew Braddock, Chairman of the Light Rail Transit Association (LRTA), said: "Now the HS2 route has been confirmed it is clear we need to address means of getting to its stations. Toton is in a very fortunate position, not only being just one kilometre away from the current terminus of NET but also in a place where various disused mineral railways converged. These lines are ideal for light rail use and can reconnect several former mining towns and villages to the new prosperity. The proposed Kimberley and Eastwood extension to NET would use parts of these mineral lines."

Steve Barber (Vice President elect of the LRTA and chair of Beeston and Chilwell for Integrated Transport) added "There is no doubt that construction of NET phase 2 was a difficult process, but the extension to Kimberley would involve no street running and little disruption. Now Nottingham has the beginnings of a network the advantages are becoming clear. Beeston High Road has no retail units available for rent and the town has a shop vacancy rate of just 3%, against national and regional averages of around 10-12%. As

happened in Manchester, now is the time for a big expansion to include lines to Kimberley, Eastwood, Gedling and possibly the airport.”

Jim Harkins (from the secretariat of the All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group) said: “Nottingham is to be commended for its work on air pollution. For a city of its size it is punching above its weight and showing the rest of the country how it should be done. Research in Oslo has shown that around 50% of the most dangerous PM10 and other particulates don't come just from engines but from the vehicle tyres and road surface wearing out and going into the low level atmosphere. Particles from brake linings are a source of atmospheric pollution too.

Recent reports from the Universities of Oxford and Manchester amongst others has indicated a significant link with Alzheimer's disease being caused by the Magnetite particles generated from the interface between wheels and road surfaces. The steel wheels of electric trams running on steel rails do not emit any of this pollution.

References

Satisfaction in Nottingham's trams is running at 98% and exceeds other networks. <http://thetram.net/net-is-number-one-say-customers.aspx>

Construction of NET phase alone benefited Nottingham's businesses by £100m; <http://thetram.net/report-reveals-tram-projects-100m-economy-boost.aspx>

Air pollution particles linked to Alzheimer's found in human brain
<http://www.applrguk.co.uk/media/files/LR-Applrg-Air-Pollution-Alzheimers-Sept-2016pdf>

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. *TramForward* is the campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association.
2. The LRTA is a not-for-profit UK based organisation and has members throughout the world. Free of any trade or political affiliation; it is the world's leading organisation concerned with the achievement of better public transport through light rail, tramway and metro systems in towns and cities world-wide. <http://www.lrta.org/>
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