

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

18 November 2016

***TramForward* urges Leeds to back TramTrain**

TramForward is concerned that the Leeds City Region is missing an opportunity to develop a transport system for the 21st century. Leeds has the unenviable distinction of being the largest European city without a tram, light rail or metro system.

TramForward understands the reluctance of Leeds City Council and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to embark upon another major scheme following the rejection by the Department for Transport of first the Supertram and subsequently the New Generation trolleybus schemes after considerable sums had been spent on planning them.

However, the fact that £173 million of government funding is still available should provide an opportunity to launch a significant scheme, such as the proposed Leeds-Bradford Airport TramTrain which could be the start of an eventual comprehensive light rail system.

Andrew Braddock, Chairman of the Light Rail Transit Association, urged the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to think big, think long term and seize this chance to make a start on creating a better public transport system for the region. As has been shown in Nottingham, a modern tram network improves the environment, gets people out of their cars, creates jobs, aids economic regeneration and substantially enhances quality of life.

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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