

# **TramForward**

## *Campaigning for Light Rail*

**PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward***

**2 August 2017**

### **TramForward disappointed with Government air quality policy**

*TramForward* is disappointed with the recently announced Government air quality policy as it deals only with the reduction of nitrogen dioxide pollution from vehicle exhausts. Nitrogen dioxide is only part of the problem, particulate matter is also extremely damaging to health. While the proposed measures may well cut down particulate as well as nitrogen dioxide emissions, they will do nothing to tackle the other major source of particulate pollution, which is wear of tyres, brake linings and road surfaces. This has been dubbed the "Oslo effect" after the city where the problem was first identified.

Even if a complete shift to electric or hydrogen-powered vehicles were achieved there would still be a major pollution problem on our roads from the Oslo effect, with all the ensuing health problems. This problem is caused by all rubber-tyred vehicles, however they are powered.

*TramForward* calls upon the Government to look again at the issue of air pollution around our roads and to consider other well-proven solutions which may help to alleviate the problem. One such solution would be the widespread adoption of tram or light rail systems to serve the main traffic corridors in our urban areas. Trams have been shown to achieve a welcome shift from private to public transport and could also significantly reduce the numbers of buses required to enter city and town centres.

Andrew Braddock, Chairman of the LRTA, added "The time has come for government to take a lead in transforming our cities by taking the streets back for the people. It makes no sense to continue with car-dependent lifestyles and accept that the huge costs of urban traffic congestion continue into the era of the electric car. Modern trams have a transformational effect on local economies, creating jobs, encouraging inward investment and enhancing citizens' 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](http://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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