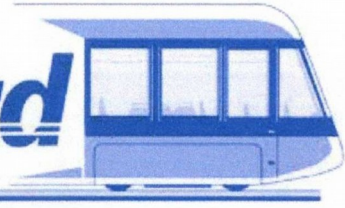




TramForward



A PRESS RELEASE FROM THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

Lytham Tram Link Report Published

4th January 2019



TramForward welcomes the publication of an outline report by the campaign group Trams to Lytham detailing why further development work should be undertaken on the potential extension of the Blackpool Tramway to St Anne's and Lytham via the South Fylde railway line.

Sam Flynn, Lead Campaigner of Trams to Lytham, said "Extending the Tramway to Lytham would provide an integrated, modern transport system for the Fylde Coast. Linking the popular network and its five million annual passengers to the underutilised South Fylde Line will solve many of the issues facing the area. It will bring a reliable and more frequent service that the inadequate route desperately needs."

"Travelling between Blackpool and South Fylde is difficult and lengthy, and neither the hourly train service nor the often-unreliable buses are satisfactory. There are only two major roads between them, so congestion is a huge issue. An alternative corridor is sorely needed, and this solution would provide it with direct links to the Town Centre, Enterprise Zone and other key areas. There would be a lot more stops for thousands of residents and a more accessible service for disabled people. It's a much more well-balanced option than simply increasing the number of trains on the line."

"Our lengthy report highlights these important issues and why this project needs more consideration by councils. It's a hugely popular idea and has the support of over 3,000 petition signatures as well as many influential local people, and our campaign was highly commended at the 2018 Global Light Rail Awards. Light rail has been a revolution in towns and cities worldwide in recent decades, and the Fylde shouldn't miss out on its huge potential."

Jane Cole, Managing Director of Blackpool Transport, added “Investment in Public Transport infrastructure is a necessary precursor to persuading people out of their cars, and making the switch to more environmentally friendly and sustainable methods of travel.

The latest iteration of the Blackpool Tramway, our Flexity 2 service, has been running since April 2012, and the current works in the Talbot Road area of Blackpool will see that Tramway extended to Blackpool North station in the near future. Combined with regular outings for our much-loved and expanding heritage fleet of traditional Blackpool trams, we now have 130 years’ experience of operating trams on the Fylde Coast. We know they are effective people-movers, they’ve got a very respectable carbon footprint, locals and visitors love them, and they make money!

It therefore makes absolute sense to continue to be ambitious in terms of extending the tramway, as we also continue to invest in our now 92-strong fleet of Palladium buses, which serve Blackpool and the wider Fylde Coast. The excellent report by Trams to Lytham makes clear the scale of the ambition, and the scale of the challenge (not least in terms of identifying finance), but this should encourage ambition rather than suppress it, and I wholeheartedly welcome their work.”

Paul Rowen, Chairman of the Light Rail Transit Association, said “We are very happy to support Trams to Lytham in its campaign to extend the Blackpool tramway to Lytham and St Anne's and to bring the benefits of efficient and clean public transport to a substantial area of the Fylde Coast. Folk in Lytham and St Anne’s have a very poor rail service to Blackpool at the moment and the line could be extended on to the Blackpool tram system very economically giving residents direct access into the centre of Blackpool.”

The report can be viewed online and will be submitted to local authorities and stakeholders for their consideration.

Link to the report: <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Ap09ubFyGhyigQacEqLbO-pHTClh>

NOTES

1. The LRTA (<http://www.lrta.org/>) 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 80 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail and TramTrain technology.

2. For enquiries about Trams to Lytham, see <https://en-gb.facebook.com/tramstolytham/> or contact tramstolytham@outlook.com

3. For all other enquiries - please contact:

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