

TramForward

Quality transport for Bristol?

Public transport in Bristol has long been considered unsatisfactory. Over the years several schemes have been suggested to introduce trams into Bristol but all have failed due to lack of commitment. Now under pressure from the Government Bristol is promoting a so called Bus Rapid Transit scheme. There is little evidence worldwide of the success of such systems, compared to the many tram & light rail systems being planned or built.

What of our twin cities?

Bordeaux	France	New Tramway
Hannover	Germany	Tramway (part underground)
Oporto	Portugal	Old Tramway, new Metro (tram operated - some in street)
Tbilisi	Georgia	Metro
Puerto Morazan	Nicaragua	
Beira	Mozambique	
Guangzhou	China	Metro

So Bristol ranks with the third world cities in transport terms!

What can be done:

There is a long term plan for a Bristol 'Metro' based on the existing suburban railway lines but this in itself will not be enough to solve Bristol's transport problems. there is however an answer!

Tram-trains to the rescue:

Tram-trains enable vehicles to run on both the railway and to run on street to reach the place people want to go. They have operated successfully in many cities overseas such as Karlsruhe and Kassel in Germany. A trial is being planned in the UK between Sheffield and Rotherham. The Government has also announced that the St. Albans to Watford railway line is to be converted to tram and there are cities all over the country developing tram train plans. Why not Bristol? A short length of new track to link north of Temple Meads to Bedminster via the City Centre could be the start of a revitalisation of our suburban railways enabling services from Severn Beach, Portishead, Filton etc. to the Centre.

What you can do!

The organisation in charge of much of Greater Bristol's transport and planning is the West of England Partnership (WoE), consisting of Bristol City Council, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire

You might like to write to them, as well as to your MP and local councillors to ask for a quality transport system for Bristol.

The main council contact is:

Barbara Davies. West of England Partnership Office, Wilder House, Wilder Street, Bristol B52 8PH.
email :Barbara.davies@westofengland.org

To find more about trams & light rail visit:

www.tramforward.info

www.lrta.org/Bristol

email: Bristol@lrta.org