



"THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR TRAMS" (1)

This opinion is shared by many people living in Leeds, a large city fed currently by an ever dwindling network of buses on typical urban services. A deluge of interest from the public has appeared in the press and highlighted what is now becoming obvious, *"Shortage of transport funding is damaging the city"* (2). Some strong opinions have also been expressed regarding the Government's axing of the Supertram project in 2005. The Transport Minister is being put under pressure to face claims that the decision to axe the scheme was due to a *"Cynical short term political calculation"*. It is not too difficult to understand the anger generated with many public bodies. A good example is the National Audit Office (NAO) expressing serious doubts on the validity of the DfT's transit calculations. Fuel is still being poured onto that proverbial political fire with suggestions that the nation is allegedly being taken in the wrong direction because it does not favour good quality transit systems. Paradoxically it sees supposedly cheaper Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as the way forward. Many Leeds residents have responded with a suggestion that *"Leeds must go back to the future"*. This tends to sum up an attitude that what Leeds had over 50 years ago (single deck trams and many miles of segregated track) is the correct way forward.

This Discussion Document has attempted to convey the basic but official approach to the whole question of urban transit and would now like to draw attention to the hundred or so tramways now in operation, in build or being planned, in Western Europe alone. England's negative attitude towards modern tramway systems has put new impetus into calls via the press for the Supertram project to be resurrected. The point was made by one reader that the Transport Secretary deceived the public with his remark : *"Trams are not good value for money"*. Our table is surely conclusive evidence that Mr Darling may well have been wrong.

REFERENCES

- 1) Keith Wilby - Yorkshire Evening Post(YEP) - 15th December 2007.
- 2) Poor Transport Funding damaging City Say MPs - Mark Hookham (Political Editor) YEP - 11th March 2008.

TABLE 1 Overleaf

TRAMWAYS IN OPERATION, IN BUILD OR BEING PLANNED IN WESTERN EUROPE.

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TABLE No 1. **TRAMWAYS IN OPERATION, IN BUILD OR BEING PLANNED IN WESTERN EUROPE.**

Country	Systems
AUSTRIA	Gmunden (railway feeder), Graz, Innsbruck, Linz, Salzburg (interurban), Wien, Wien-Baden (interurban)
BELGIUM	Antwerpen, Brussels, Charleroi, Gent, Hans-sur-Lesse (heritage), Oostende (coastal tramway),
ENGLAND	Birmingham, Blackpool, Croydon, Manchester, Nottingham, Sheffield
EIRE	Dublin
FRANCE	Angers, Aulnay-Bondy, Bordeaux, Brest, Grenoble, Le Mans, Lille (interurban), Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Mulhouse, Nantes, Nice, Orléons, Paris, Reims, Reunion, Rouen, St Etienne, Strasbourg, Toulouse, Valenciennes,
GERMANY	Augsberg, Bad Schandau (heritage), Berlin, Bielefeld, Bochum-Gelsenkirchen, Bonn, Brandenburg, Braunschweig, Bremen, Chemnitz, Cottbus, Darmstadt, Dessau, Dortmund, Dresden, Duisburg, Düsseldorf, Erfurt, Essen, Frankfurt/Main, Frankfurt/Oder, Freiburg/Bresgau, Gera, Görlitz, Gotha, Halle, Halberstadt, Hannover, Heidelberg, Jena, Karlsruhe, Kassel, Köln, Krefeld, Leipzig, Ludwigshafen, Magdeburg, Mainz, Mannheim, Mulheim/Ruhr, München, Naumburg, Nordhausen, Nürnberg, Oberhausen, Plauen, Potsdam, Rostock, Saarbrücken, Schöneiche, Swbwerin, Strausberg, Stuttgart, Ulm, Waltersdorf, Würzburg, Zwickaw
ITALY	Bergamo, Cagliari, Firenze, Genova, Messina, Milano, Napoli, Palermo, Rome, Sassari, Torino, Trieste, Verona.
NORWAY	Bergen, Oslo, Trondheim
SPAIN	Alacant, Barcelona, Bilbao, Granada, Madrid, Malaga, Parla, Santa Cruz Tenerife, Sevilla, Sollér, Vélez-Málaga, Valencia,.
SWITZERLAND	Basel, Bern, Bern-Worb (interurban), Geneva, Glattal, Neuchâtel, Zürich, Zürich-Esslingen (interurban)
THE NETHERLANDS	Amsterdam, Den Haag, Houten, Randstadrail (tram-train), Rijn-Gouwe (tram-train), Rotterdam, Utrecht
SCOTLAND	Edinburgh
SWEDEN	Göteborg, Lidingö, Norrköping, Stockholm
WALES	Llandudno (cable tram)

Every effort has been made to produce an up-to-date list of systems. Development has been so fast that a few names may have been missed.

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A full list of tramways throughtout the world can be found at www.lrta.org/world/worldind.html