



# ***Light Rail Transit Association***

***Advocating modern tramways and urban light rail transit***

***Established 1937, incorporated 2004***

**PRESS RELEASE**

**15th May 2007**

## **LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR QUALITY PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Politicians urged to support tramways to improve economy, environment and quality of life

The Light Rail Transit Association has launched a new campaign to engage politicians of all parties in the fight for better transport links through modern light rail and tram systems.

The LRTA is encouraging supporters of quality public transport to contact members of the UK Parliament, Scottish Parliament, and the Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies to make clear the benefits. Already, the formation of the All-Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group demonstrates the importance attached by MPs to the implementation of modern trams, which have brought about a significant move from cars to public transport, and have made a series of British cities better places to live, work and shop.

A new leaflet, distributed with the June issue of the LRTA's international journal *Tramways & Urban Transit*, gives details of the benefits brought about by light rail - in terms of modal shift from cars, economic competitiveness, urban regeneration and the environment. It also explains how different technologies - such as tram-trains that run from city streets on to suburban rail lines, and 'lightweight rail' which doesn't need an overhead electric supply - make attractive rail-based public transport applicable across the country.

"Trams and light rail have already made several British cities better connected and nicer places to be," said Geoff Lusher, Deputy Chairman of the LRTA. "There is no doubt about the environmental, societal or economic benefits they bring. Recent approvals for extensions in Manchester and Nottingham show that public pressure works, and there has never been a better time to make sure that politicians at all levels recognise the advantages."

For more information about the Light Rail Transit Association, its activities and the benefits of high-quality public transport, visit [www.lrta.org](http://www.lrta.org).

### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

1. The Light Rail Transit Association is the world's leading organisation campaigning for better public transport through light rail, tramway and metro systems in our towns and cities for nearly 70 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail.

2. The LRTA acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their localities.

3. Membership of the LRTA costs just over 10p 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 of the LRTA 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 sites.

4. Press enquiries - please contact:

Geoff Lusher, Deputy Chairman, Light Rail Transit Association  
86 Heritage Court, Warstone Lane, Birmingham, B18 6HU  
Telephone 07768 457911 E-mail [glusher@lrta.org](mailto:glusher@lrta.org)

Ends