

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

3 July 2017

***TramForward* welcomes DfT tram statistics**

TramForward is pleased to note that England's tram networks have reported their highest passenger numbers and vehicle mileage since 1983, according to figures released by the Department for Transport (DfT),.

The statistics cover the six tram systems in England: Blackpool Tramway, London (formerly Croydon) Tramlink, Manchester Metrolink, Midland Metro, Nottingham Express Transit and Sheffield Supertram; together with the two light rail systems: Docklands Light Railway and Tyne and Wear Metro. All eight systems saw an increase in passenger journeys except the Tyne and Wear Metro, which has been affected by closures for infrastructure works.

Passenger growth has been particularly noticeable in Nottingham and Birmingham, with increases of 35 per cent and 29 per cent respectively. This follows the opening of Nottingham's two new lines in August 2015 and the extension of the Midland Metro to Birmingham New Street station last year.

The DfT statistics show that 267.7 million passenger journeys were recorded in 2016/17 (an increase of 6.2 per cent on the previous year), while vehicle mileage increased by 2.9% (mostly due to the Midland Metro and Nottingham Express Transit expansions) and tram and light rail revenue increased by 5.5% in real terms to £362.4 million.

Although the DfT report covers only England, Edinburgh Trams have just reported patronage increasing by 10% and revenue rising by 12% over the past year.

All these figures follow on the recent survey results from Transport Focus (which do not include London but do cover Edinburgh) showing an average customer satisfaction level of 93% which compare with equivalent levels for bus of 87% and train of 81%.

LRTA Chairman Andrew Braddock commented that the Department's statistics supported the view that trams are very popular with passengers and provided the best chance of reducing the nation's over-dependence on the motor car. "Having just celebrated the Association's 80th birthday", he added, "we are delighted to see that our guiding principle that modern trams make sense for cities has been vindicated yet again".

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 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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