

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

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***TramForward* urges move to light rail to cut air pollution**

TramForward's campaign to promote electric-powered light rail as a means of combating health problems caused by air pollution has received a boost from research carried out in Sacramento, California.

Exposure to particulate pollution during commuting was compared in six modes of travel: single occupancy motor vehicles, high occupancy motor vehicles, buses, light rail, train, and cycling. The researchers concluded that electric-powered light rail offers the least-polluted travel environment.

TramForward also endorses a recent Guardian article by Frank Kelly, Professor of Environmental Health at King's College London, in which he calls into question the government's fixation on the electric car as the cure-all for urban air pollution and warns of the dangers posed by particulate pollution emanating from road and tyre wear. He cites a review published by the European Commission which found this type of pollution to make up fifty percent of particulate emissions.

TramForward reiterates its call for a major expansion of electric-powered tram and light rail systems to encompass the main traffic arteries of our cities and towns.

References

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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.lрта.org or write to the Membership Secretary, LRTA, 38 Wolsley 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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