

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

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TramForward welcomes Transforming Cities Fund

TramForward welcomes the announcement by the Government of the new £1.7bn 'Transforming Cities Fund' to improve transport links and promote growth in city regions.

TramForward has long stressed the importance to local economies of connectivity within cities and city regions and is pleased to see that this has now been recognised by Government.

TramForward believes that light rail and trams, with their proven record of encouraging modal shift from cars to public transport and their contribution to pollution reduction, should form the backbone of integrated public transport systems in our cities. The UK has lagged behind other countries in this, although cities such as Manchester and Nottingham are already benefiting significantly from the "Metrolink" and "NET" tram networks, which have enabled transformational growth in public transport use.

The West Midlands, which has ambitious transport plans including major expansion of the "Midland Metro" tram system, is already set to benefit from the new fund but we would like to see other major cities, such as Leeds and Bristol following this lead.

Andrew Braddock, Chairman of the LRTA, said "The urgent need to improve the poor air quality in our cities, and to deal with the huge costs of urban traffic congestion, will require investment in better public transport in smaller urban areas too. Bath, Brighton & Hove, Cambridge, Chester, Coventry, Derby, Leicester, Norwich, Oxford and Warrington are among those which would benefit from modern tram networks".

"It is also essential", he added, "that investment in extending the highly successful "Tramlink" network around Croydon should be given priority by the Mayor of London, along with revival of the proposals for the Cross River Tram through the centre of the capital, which could link to an east-west tram service along Oxford Street, enabling removal of buses and taxis without damaging the massive contribution public transport makes to the economic success of this key thoroughfare".

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 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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