

# **TramForward**

## *Campaigning for Light Rail*

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

**10 January 2018**

### **Preston tramway project marks milestone**

Preston Trampower Limited has taken a step forward in its proposal to bring trams back to Preston by appointing Eric Wright Civil Engineering, a local contractor, to build the 5.6km long £25M Guild Line, beginning with a 1.25km long pilot section in the Deepdale area of the city. Work on construction of the pilot scheme, approved in 2016, is expected to start by March of this year.

The first stop platform and tram shed will be built on a site in Deepdale Street on the pilot line, which will initially be used for demonstration rides and staff training.

A sod-cutting ceremony for the pilot line took place on Tuesday, 9 January and representatives from both organisations signed a memorandum of understanding.

Director of Preston Trampower, Professor Lewis Lesley, said that the planning application for the full Guild Line will be submitted by Easter. Once completed, the Guild Line would have 12 stops at locations including Deepdale Shopping Park, Preston North End FC's Deepdale Stadium and the University of Central Lancashire.

Trampower said that private investment "to deliver the infrastructure for the tram service, as well as additional funds for the leasing of trams" is already "lined up." and the service could welcome its first passengers, subject to planning approval, in 2019.

*TramForward* will be watching the project with great interest as it incorporates a number of innovations: privately financed, low cost (compared with previous UK tram schemes) and using local planning rules rather than the more usual Transport and Works Act powers. If successful, it will bring significant benefits to Preston in terms of greater connectivity as well as reductions in traffic congestion and pollution. It could also provide a template for similar schemes in other towns and cities.

### **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 80 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 15p 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 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.
5. Press enquiries - please contact:  
Jim Harkins, Chairman External Relations Group, LRTA,  
Auchenshuggle Junction, 8 Beechmoore, Moore, Warrington WA4 6EU  
Telephone: 01925 740675; 07721 378223  
Email: [jimmyharkins@aol.com](mailto:jimmyharkins@aol.com)