



Light Rail Transit Association

Advocating modern tramways and urban light rail transit

Established 1937, incorporated 2004

PRESS RELEASE

6th March 2007

LRTA RESPONDS TO REPORT ON DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT PERFORMANCE

The Light Rail Transit Association - the world's leading organisation campaigning for better public transport through light rail - has reacted to the latest report from the Transport Select Committee.

The report reveals that the Department for Transport will not meet its targets on road congestion, use of urban public transport, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. The failure to meet environmental targets is particularly disappointing. As the Select Committee says, "transport is the only sector of the economy in which emissions [of greenhouse gases] have been rising consistently since 1990".

As already shown on systems in Nottingham, Croydon and elsewhere, light rail and modern tram systems are particularly effective at encouraging car users to use public transport, and they transport people more cleanly and efficiently than cars or buses.

"The Transport Select Committee says it is dismayed at the Department's lack of success in improving local air quality, and that failure against an already weak road congestion target is disappointing. We agree," said Geoff Lusher, Vice Chairman of the Light Rail Transit Association. "And it is clear that light rail systems - which are clean, green and attractive to passengers - can play a key role in meeting these targets. We know that people will leave their cars at home if they have the option of modern trams, and we know that those trams emit less pollution than cars and buses.

"Light rail is a vital tool for reducing congestion, increasing public transport use and cutting greenhouse gases. The Department for Transport says that it is trying to encourage more sustainable transport choices. The answer is more and better light rail systems."

For more information about the Light Rail Transit Association, its activities and the benefits of high-quality public transport, visit 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 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

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