



# ***Light Rail Transit Association***

***Advocating modern tramways and urban light rail transit***

*Established 1937, incorporated 2004*

**PRESS RELEASE**

**5th April 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 suggestions that light rail (including modern tramways) are too expensive and represent poor value for money.

This follows the Department for Transport's publication of "Draft Guidance for Local Authority Promoters Considering a Light Rail Scheme", which gives lengthy advice on bus alternatives, and the IPPR think tank's "Getting the Connections Right" discussion paper, which recommends dropping "tram dreams".

The IPPR report is in response to the Eddington Transport Study, published in late 2006, which identified that 89% of congestion is in urban and suburban areas - exactly the places where modern light rail has been shown to produce modal shift away from cars as travellers switch to convenient and comfortable public transport systems.

"To be serious about improving transport, you've got to include light rail," said Geoff Lusher, Vice Chairman of the LRTA. "Of course it's important to get the right solution to local transport problems, but these documents dismiss tramways too readily. They should remember that Britain's most successful light rail scheme is Nottingham's - the most recent one. So the evidence is that we're getting better at planning and implementing tram systems, and that people will switch to good public transport in droves."

For more information about the Light Rail Transit Association, its activities and the benefits of high-quality public transport, visit [www.lrta.org](http://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](http://www.lrta.org) or write to the Membership Secretary, LRTA, 38 Wolsley 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](mailto:glusher@lrta.org)

Ends