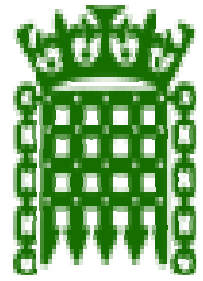


Light Rail (UK)

All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

"The past we inherit, the future we build"
Trams – Catalysts for Jobs, Renewal & Regeneration



Metrolink smashes records with 31.2 million passengers in 12 months



Trams travelling 5.6 million miles In just four years, the numbers of stations have rocketed from 38 to 92 and there are now 57 miles of track across Greater Manchester
Booming Metrolink has smashed previous records as the network continues to expand across Greater Manchester.

In the year up to April, 31.2m passengers took the tram - a 6.8 per cent rise on the previous year when 29.2m journeys were made.

It's also been a bumper financial year, with takings up 7.8 pc last year to £56.8m from 52.3m. In 2010/11, they were £29.4m.

In total, [Metrolink](#) trams travelled 5.6 million miles - a 7.8 per cent increase.

The figures show just how much Metrolink has grown in the past five years.

In 2010/11 passengers had 38 stations and 25 miles of track open to them.

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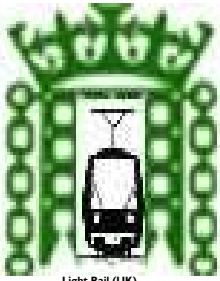
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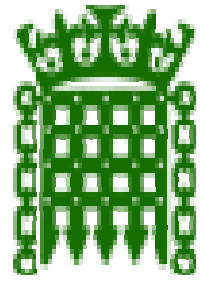


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Number of Metrolink stations

By last year the number of stations and stops had both more than doubled to 92 stations and 57 miles respectively.

Passengers made an extra 12m journeys on Metrolink last year compared to four years earlier.

The figures were helped by the launch of the new 15-stop Manchester Airport line, which carried more than 266,000 passengers in just the first few months.

Metrolink, now the largest light rail network in the UK, covers almost 60 miles, with a fleet of close to 100 trams.

Work is now well under way on the Second City Crossing through Manchester, due to open in 2017 when the Metrolink fleet will be 120-vehicles strong – meaning more seats on trams and more frequent services.

It's expected that by end of the decade, more than 40 million passenger journeys could be made by Metrolink every year, helping to tackle congestion.

Councillor Andrew Fender, chair of the Transport for Greater Manchester committee, said: "2014 was a landmark year for Metrolink, with the launch of three new lines meaning local residents and visitors chose to make well over 30 million journeys a year by tram, which is a staggering number.

"With a multi-million pound expansion and stop improvement programme taking place through the city centre, and plans for a new line to Trafford Park and the Trafford Centre gaining momentum, it's an exciting time for Metrolink."

Metrolink's busiest year ever helped to boost national light rail figures to 239.8m journeys - up 5.6 per cent. IN terms of miles travelled by trams, Metrolink is just ahead of the Metro in Newcastle and is the largest overall outside the Docklands Light Railway in London - although the Tyneside network does beat Metrolink in terms of passenger journeys.

Transport minister Andrew Jones, said: "Good local transport makes it easier for people to get to work and see their family and friends. The fact that passenger numbers on tram and light rail are at record levels shows our investment has been worthwhile.

"The improvements we are making to these services are part of our long term economic plan to create a transport system people can rely on, which has the added benefit of creating jobs, growth and opportunity."

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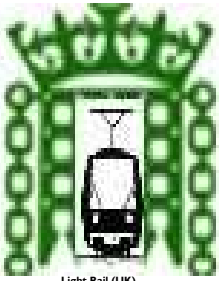
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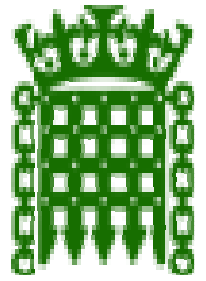


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The Metrolink network is benefiting from a £1.5 billion investment in new lines, new trams and stop improvements, including major overhauls of the Deansgate-Castlefield, Victoria and St Peter's Square stops to help them cope with millions more passenger journeys.

In November last year, £350m funding was also confirmed for a new line to Trafford Park and the Trafford Centre.

This year will also see the roll-out of smart ticketing to the tram network.

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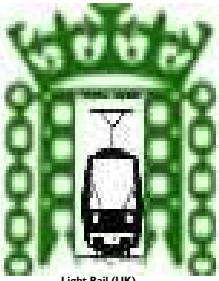
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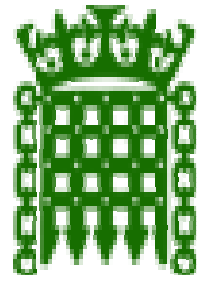


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The next tram will arrive . . . in five days!



Manchester's 100th tram has begun its journey from its makers in Vienna
Metrolink's milestone 100th tram has begun its journey from its makers in Vienna to its home in Manchester.

The five-day journey across Europe from the Bombardier factory in Vienna will cover over 1,000 miles by land and sea.

Travelling on the back of a flatbed lorry, the M5000 model tram will journey through Nuremberg, and Cologne to Rotterdam, with a ferry crossing to Hull, then on to Leeds and finally Manchester.

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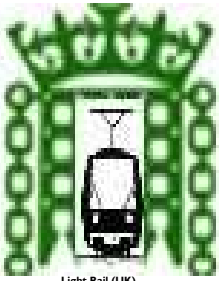
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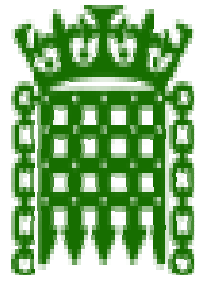
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Peter Cushing, Metrolink Director for Transport for Greater Manchester, said: "We are extremely excited to announce that Metrolink's 100th tram is now making its way from the factory in Vienna. It's a landmark for the network and demonstrates how much Metrolink has grown over the last few years. "Since the M5000 tram was introduced back in 2009 it's greatly improved the reliability of our services and so it's with great pride that we'll soon have 100 in our fleet.

"The 100th tram is expected to arrive in Manchester this weekend and so to mark its journey across Europe we're going to be tracking its progress on social media.

"People can follow its journey each day by following us on Facebook and Twitter."

[ManchesterEveningNews](#)

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