

# **TramForward**

## *Campaigning for Light Rail*

**PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward***

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

### **New Welsh Rail Franchise and Cardiff Capital Region Metro**

*TramForward* is cautiously pleased to note the first 5 years of plans for the Metro in the announcements about the new Welsh rail franchise to commence on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2018. The planned procurement of new rolling stock, infrastructure enhancements, and increases in services are all very welcome items.

*TramForward* is, however, very well aware that the announced improvements on existing rail lines are only the beginning of the more extensive multi-modal Metro network as identified on the Welsh Government website. *TramForward* is therefore intent on ensuring that the Welsh Government instructs Transport for Wales to pursue development work on the other Metro routes, so that construction work on them can follow on from the upgrade of the existing Valleys Lines.

In order to achieve best value from investment monies, there needs to be a continuous stream of work to keep key technical teams employed. A stop-start approach, with constant stand-downs, and subsequent restarts, is very wasteful.

Alan Wilkins, LRTA Area Officer, South Wales, said: 'This is the start of a potentially exciting era for public transport in South Wales. The melding of existing rail lines, with on-street extensions and TramTrain technology, portends huge economic benefits from greatly improved connectivity. *TramForward* looks ahead to working with all parties involved to ensure that development momentum is sustained into realisation throughout, and beyond the duration of the new franchise.'

#### **NOTES**

1. **TramForward** is the campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association (LRTA).
2. The LRTA (<http://www.lrta.org/>) 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.
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