

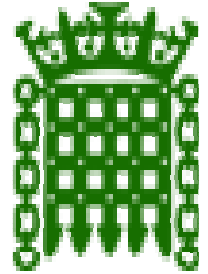


**All Party Parliamentary
Light Rail Group**

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

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Greg Mulholland MP Mulholland urges action following congestion report

PRESS RELEASE Office of Greg Mulholland MP (Leeds North West)

Greg Mulholland, the MP for Leeds North West, has highlighted the findings of a transport study, which found Leeds was the seventh most congested city in the UK, as further reason for investment in a mass transit scheme in the city.

The report by Inrix, a transport information company, found that London was the most congested city in the UK, but Leeds was seventh in the list, and found that traffic jams will cost motorists in Leeds and Bradford £2.6bn by 2025.

Mr Mulholland had recently urged Chancellor Philip Hammond to allocate some of the funding announced in the Autumn Statement for transport infrastructure, allocated to help tackle traffic congestion, to Leeds to add to the £250 million for the failed NGT project - to increase funding for a light rail system and a link to Leeds Bradford Airport.

Following the publication of the report, Greg has once again urged the Council to abandon their plans to spend the £173.5m allocated from the cancelled NGT Trolleybus project on smaller schemes across the city, and instead invest this in a transformative mass transit system.

The findings of the report also fly-in the face of the recent comments by the Senior Councillor responsible for transport in Leeds, Cllr Richard Lewis, who caused astonishment with his recent comments claiming that Leeds doesn't have a traffic problem;

"We don't actually have a transport problem. Traffic moves relatively easy along Leeds at peak times."

Commenting Greg said:

"This report highlights the very serious traffic problems we have in Leeds, despite what the council say.

"This study has laid bare the enormous cost of congestion, a staggering £1.5 billion in Leeds alone. Thankfully the city has £250 million available for a public transport scheme, so we must take this one off opportunity to tackle this damaging congestion and finally get started with light rail scheme in the city.

"It is clear, given that we are the seventh most congested city in the UK, that the Council's current plans are not sufficient to address our traffic problems and we need to invest in the *mass transit scheme Leeds desperately needs.*"

- Please contact Daniel on 0113 2266519 for more information

These meetings are by invitation only, where MPs, Stakeholders etc., within the Light Rail industry and invited members of the Public will have a chance to discuss debate and raise questions concerning Light Rail

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