

# All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group

House of Commons

Light Rail & Trams, Affordable & Sustainable Transport

"The past we inherit, the future we build ourselves"



"TramTrain does it Greener and Cheaper on lightly used railway lines and in the streets"

# Chairman Greg Mulholland MP expresses delight that the Government have backed his calls and now Leeds can spend £173million on a truly transformative transport scheme and calls summit to discuss this

Greg Mulholland, MP for Leeds North West, has expressed his delight that the Government have backed his calls to reject the NGT Trolleybus scheme and now Leeds can spend £173million on a truly transformative transport scheme and Mr Mulholland is now calling for a summit to discuss alternative transport proposals.

The Department for Transport today announced that they have accepted and agreed with the Inspector's recommendation that the Transport and Works Act ("TWA") Order required to enable the Leeds New Generation Transport Scheme to be constructed is not made.

Both the Inspector and Ministers have however decided that Leeds can retain the £173 million of funding currently earmarked for the scheme to be used on an alternative public transport system. In addition, both Ministers and the Inspector criticised Leeds City Council for not properly considering alternatives to the Trolleybus scheme.

In the Department for Transport's decision notice the Minister stated that "since the cancellation of the Supertram scheme in 2005 and in the more recent re-examination of options, the applicants had not fully examined whether there were more suitable corridors for a rapid transit system to meet the scheme's objectives, nor whether better or more cost-effective ways to improve public transport were now available".

The NGT scheme has been in development for ten years and has already cost £60m - but the government says there were 1,700 objections - that's the most received for a scheme of its sort for more than ten years.

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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Following the decision, Greg Mulholland MP has written to all Leeds MPs, Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Chamber of Commerce calling for a summit to discuss how the City can now plan, without being dictated to by Whitehall, the start of a modern tram or tram train system, looking at existing rail lines.

### Commenting Greg Mulholland MP said:

"I am delighted that the Government and Inspector have listened to my calls and not just rejected the NGT Trolleybus but also insisted that Leeds retains the £173m to be used for an alternative transport system.

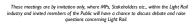
"This is exactly the outcome that I and others have been calling for, and I am delighted that we can now come together as a city and region to discuss a properly integrated, modern transport system.

I am therefore calling for a summit between all Leeds MPs, Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Chamber of Commerce to ensure that we capitalise on this opportunity.

"As a city and wider region we must now work together to come up with the right 21st century transport system and include all options, in using tram and tram train and looking at existing rail lines. Part of this planning must include a fixed link to Leeds Bradford International Airport as part of a wider city region system.

"It is time for Leeds to catch up with other UK & European cities on transport."

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