

Photo: Centro.

Transport chief calls for tram-train investment

02 Jul 2012 [by Marc Johnson](#) [in Rail News](#) [2 Comments](#)

Public transport chief Geoff Inskip has urged the government to invest millions of pounds into tram-trains.

Mr Inskip called on the Department for Transport to set aside £100 million a year from the savings identified in the McNulty Report into improving efficiency in Britain's rail industry to develop tram-train networks across the country.

Tram-train is a light-rail public transport system where trams are able to run on an urban network and on mainline railways shared with conventional trains.

He said: "Tram-train is a brilliant concept ripe for development – it combines the tram's flexibility and accessibility with a train's greater speed, and bridges the distance between main railway stations and a city centre.

“It is why I say the Government should set aside £100 million per annum from those savings they will be making from McNulty and ring fence that money for tram-train.

“In this way we can get on with delivering the Department for Transport’s agenda of delivering a better value for money railway and a greener more sustainable economy.”

Mr Inskip is chief executive of Centro, the integrated transport authority for the West Midlands.

He is also chairman of UK Tram, the forum representing Britain’s tram industry.

Work has begun on a national tram-train pilot scheme between Sheffield and Rotherham which is due to begin operating in 2015.

Mr Inskip said it was essential that transport authorities developed similar projects elsewhere around the country.

“In the Centro region alone we have three possible applications – Wednesbury- Stourbridge, Walsall-Wolverhampton and Walsall-Wednesbury,” he said.

“By starting work now in other parts of the country the successful outcomes of the national trial can be immediately captured without prolonged interruptions for lengthy project development stages.”

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KitGreen

Why will this be any better than bus-trains, as seen in the ever popular class 142?

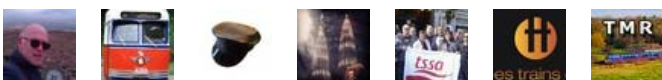
I think we should keep calm about this until the Rotherham pilot is complete and fully reported.

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