

The latest news from UKTram and the LRSSB

Strategy scoops Vision of the Year accolade

A bold and ambitious strategy for the future of light rail in the UK has been hailed as the 'Vision of the Year' at a recent industry awards event in London.

Published by UKTram, the strategy was recognised in one of the top categories at the prestigious Global Light Rail Awards.

James Hammett, UKTram Managing Director, commented: "We're delighted that the judges recognised this landmark piece of work, and winning the Vision of the Year Award will surely help to raise its profile within the light rail sector and amongst key stakeholders."

Drawing on expertise from across light rail, the strategy document can be downloaded [here](#) and builds a compelling case for investment in tramways and similar transit systems while highlighting the benefits that existing networks already deliver. A video to accompany the strategy can also be viewed [here](#).

Mr Hammett, who was presented with the award by journalist and

presenter Nicholas Owen during a gala event at the Honourable Artillery Company in London, added: "The strategy's publication followed many months of work by professionals from across light rail, and this award is testament to all their efforts."



James Hammett (far right) and UKTram Chair, George Lowder (holding the award) with members of the UKTram team on stage with Nicholas Owen (far left).

New safety video premieres as dark nights draw in



The organisation responsible for light rail safety has released a new animated video urging pedestrians to take extra care around tramways as dark nights start to draw in.

The latest 'be SMART around Trams' video has

been released ahead of the clocks going back later this month and uses eye-catching graphics that operators can use to complement their own safety campaigns.

Jamie Swift, LRSSB Head of Commercial, explained: "Previous videos in the 'be SMART' series have proved hugely popular with safety

professionals from across the sector who have used them as part of presentations to schools and other community groups, as well as on their own websites.

"This latest resource has been released as it starts to get dark earlier, a time of year that traditionally sees an increased risk of incidents across the country."

The release of the video, which premiered online here this week, represents another example of the LRSSB working in partnership with members and stakeholders to share best practice while providing operators with the support they need to further enhance light rail safety.

Produced on behalf of the LRSSB by Midlands-based agency Creative Star, the full series of videos can be viewed [here](#). LRSSB members can receive a link to download them by emailing jamie.swift@lrssb.org.

Successful summit sees sector updated on landmark projects



Danny Vaughan of TfGM and Guillaume of Keolis Amey Metrolink



Colin Robey of the UKTram Centre of Excellence



A high-profile event in Manchester has seen sector professionals meet to discuss progress on a host of vital projects that aim to drive the expansion of light rail in the UK.

Organised by UKTram, the Light Rail Summit also opened with a minute of silence to enable delegates to pay their respects to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II before they engaged in a series of topical debates.

James Hammett, UKTram Managing Director, explained: "As the nation mourned, it was inevitable that there were some last-minute changes to the list of key speakers, but the event still provided a valuable opportunity for the sector to unite behind a theme of 'Building Better'.

"During the day delegates also received an update on UKTram's Strategy for the Future of Light Rail, and on the work being done by the organisation's Centre of Excellence to support plans for future projects."

The summit also heard about the latest projects being led by the Light Rail Safety and Standards Board and how Nottingham's tram network was taking a partnership approach to tackling an increase in anti-social behaviour.

Shown here are various pictures from the day, and a full story on the summit can be found [here](#).

Appointment drives development of risk model

Plans to further develop a comprehensive, sector-wide risk model have received a major boost with a key appointment by the organisation responsible for driving light rail safety.

Laura Reardon has joined the Light Rail Safety and Standards Board as Head of Safety Risk Management and will also be responsible for working closely with individual networks on the administration, development and implementation of their own models, as well as the national project.

Having worked in the rail industry for 13 years, she brings a wealth of experience to the new role. Previously Laura has worked for Atkins SNC-Lavalin, where she led the consultancy's Infrastructure Risk & Safety team, holding the role of Transportation Technical Authority for Engineering Safety Management.

Alongside her work on delivering safety risk modelling for mainline train operators, she has already helped to lead the rollout of the existing light rail safety risk model and will now help to drive its continued development as part of the LRSSB team.



READ MORE HERE

New scenarios boost virtual reality safety tool

The latest virtual reality technology is now available to light rail operators looking to further enhance safety as part of their recruitment and training processes.

Funded by the Light Rail Safety and Standards Board, and similar to the system adopted by the DVLA for driving licence tests, the hazard perception tool has continued to evolve since it was first launched in 2020.

Following feedback from members of the UKTram Operations Group, additional scenarios have been added to reflect real-life incidents and recent changes to the highway code.

Steve Duckering, UKTram Operations Manager, explained: "The original software featured 15 'developing hazard scenarios' that could be included in training sessions or assessments, but now seven more have been added.

"These are the result of suggestions from a working group featuring representatives from the Operations Group, LRSSB and software developer Avansim who are working closely with operators to refine the technology."

The software tool itself can be run on a mid-range PC (either laptop or desktop) and is specifically designed to meet the needs of tramways and similar transit systems.

READ MORE HERE



Incident reporting and fire safety guidance published

Supplementary guidance on the statutory Reporting of Injuries, Diseases, and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) has been published by the organisation responsible for driving light rail safety.

The comprehensive document is available to download from the Light Rail Safety and Standard Board online reference library [here](#).

It sets out the statutory duties of operators and staff delegated to be a responsible person in responding to dangerous occurrences, injuries, fatalities, accidents, collisions, occupational diseases and more.

Mark Ashmore, LRSSB Head of Safety Assurance, explained: "This is obviously a crucial area in terms of safety and it includes not only what incidents must be reported, but also the timescales that must apply and the relevant recipient body for the reporting. You can read the full story [here](#)."

In recent months the LRSSB has also published comprehensive fire safety guidance for tramways, metros and similar transit systems.

Containing practical advice on how to minimise the risk of fires, the document also outlines the relevant legislation that operators need to follow, and best practice on dealing with incidents should they occur. [Click here](#) for more details.



Human Factors

A new guide from the LRSSB sets out to raise awareness of the importance of the Human Factor in designing new or upgraded Operations Control Centres (OCC).

The organisation's Head of Safety Assurance Manager, Mark Ashmore, explained: "The OCC is at the heart of tram operations, so its design should support staff whose role is to help provide safe, effective and efficient services.

"This new, peer-reviewed guidance sets out how a human factors (HF) approach can optimise design and operations for new OCC as well as for amending existing facilities."

The guidance is available to download from the Light Rail SSB website [here](#). It shows how the integration of human factors should be central to concept, design and delivery of new or improved OCC.

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Lead Engineer joins the UKTram team

The appointment of a Lead Engineer is set to help UKTram deliver on ambitious plans to boost the growth of light rail across the country.



With a wealth of engineering experience, including two decades working in light rail, Phillip Terry has joined the sector's representative organisation and will be responsible for driving a series of key initiatives.

James Hammett, UKTram Managing Director, explained: "We are delighted to welcome Phillip to the organisation as we look to deliver objectives set out in our recently published three-year business plan.

"His broad experience will prove invaluable as we forge

closer partnerships with stakeholders to support innovation, share best practice and explore new technology that will ultimately help remove the barriers to sector expansion."

Phillip has joined UKTram from Nottingham Trams Limited, where he held the position of Technical Support Manager.

He first started working on Nottingham's tram network in 2002 as one of six Infrastructure Technicians responsible for new light rail track, power, signalling, supervisory, control and communication systems.

In the years that followed, he completed an MSC in Railway Systems Engineering and Integration from Birmingham University, led the expansion of Nottingham's Wilkinson Street depot and played an important role during the city's Phase 2 tram expansion project. One particular area of expertise for Phillip is overhead line maintenance, and he recently completed a PWI Electrification Engineering Diploma.

Following his appointment, Phillip said: "I'm looking forward to sharing my experience of asset maintenance and management while fulfilling a desire to learn, improve standards and assist in the implementation and sharing of best practice.

"I'm delighted to be able to do this as part of the UKTram team, alongside our stakeholders from across the light rail sector."

Latest light rail technology on show in Berlin



The organisation representing the UK's light rail sector has been strengthening links with colleagues from across the world during a recent international event.

Innotrans is the world's largest trade fair focused on the rail transport industry and is held at the Messe Berlin exhibition centre where outdoor standard gauge sidings are used to exhibit railway vehicles.

A number of trams were also on display at the event last week, including a new model from Stadler, destined for Tyne and Wear Metro, and a FLIRT (trimodal) vehicle for Transport for Wales.

James Hammett, Managing Director of UKTram, commented: "It was fascinating to see the latest light rail technology on show, highlighting a wealth of innovation within the sector.

"The event also proved an ideal networking opportunity, enabling us to develop closer working relationships colleagues in Europe and beyond."

Conference delegates welcome strategy

A bold strategy aimed at driving the growth of light rail has been well received by delegates at a high-profile event for sector professionals.

Launched earlier this year by UKTram, the landmark strategy document proved a hot topic for discussion at the UK Light Rail Conference in Gateshead and was referenced by several high-profile speakers.

James Hammett, Managing Director of UKTram, explained: "Throughout the event we received plenty of positive feedback on the strategy from delegates.

"Building a compelling case for tramways and similar transit systems, its publication has already been welcomed by Transport Minister Baroness Vere, who gave a video presentation to the conference.

"The strategy was frequently discussed both inside and outside the conference halls, and it has certainly attracted the attention of leading figures in the sector as well as other key stakeholders."



Digital applications put in the spotlight

The benefits of using digital software applications to manage light rail assets and projects have been put under the spotlight during an online event.

Backed by UKTram, the webinar saw experts from software development specialist Bentley Systems highlight how the adoption of digital technologies can help to reduce capital costs.

James Hammett, UKTram Managing Director, was among the guest speakers, offering an insight into the current challenges faced by light rail, while Patrick Gannon from South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive talked about issues specific to ongoing projects at Sheffield Supertram.

The event in September looked at using a central data repository to better manage project and asset information, improving collaboration with key stakeholders and the supply chain, governance and compliance, and using technology to forecast and monitor trends.

James Hammett added: "We were delighted to support this important webinar, organised by a UKTram member, that provided a fascinating insight into the benefits of taking a digital approach to project planning and asset management.

"It clearly supports our own ambitions to help overcome the barriers to the future expansion of light rail, a mode of transport that can help transform urban areas by driving inward investment, improving connectivity and reducing congestion and associated pollution."

Health and safety report welcomed

A recent report that aims to ensure the rail industry remains focused on the basics of health and safety management has been welcomed by the organisation responsible for further driving up standards on UK tramways.



Published by the Office of Rail and Road (ORR), the report highlights the standing of Britain's railways as among the safest in Europe and, in relation to light rail, it recognises the vital work being done within the sector to both manage risks and improve incident reporting.

This has included the continued development of a Tram Incident and Accident Reporting (TAIR) system and a sector-wide risk model that continues to mature, projects led by the LRSSB.

The ORR's annual report also notes that no workforce fatalities in connection with light rail operations were reported over the past year while progress continues to be made on the implementation of recommendations that followed the Sandilands accident in 2016.

The LRSSB's full response to the report can be found [here](#).

Engineering Group welcomes new OLE training plan

A "hugely beneficial" plan to develop a training package on overhead line equipment (OLE) has been welcomed by members of the UKTram Engineering Group.

Organised to coincide with UKTram's annual summit, which was held this year at the Manchester Chamber of Commerce building, the group's September meeting was well attended by engineers from across the sector.

As well as discussing the potential of the training package to support the sector in raising levels of OLE competence, the group also welcomed UKTram's recently appointed Lead Engineer, Phil Terry, while Tony Marsden of Blackpool Tram took up the position of Vice-Chairman of the Group.

Following the meeting, Phil said: "Members saw the plan as hugely beneficial to light rail and we look forward to its further development over coming months.

"The September meeting also generated the highest turnout of the year for what is already a well-attended group. Almost all of those taking part attended in person, with the remainder dialling in online. For a full report on the meeting, click [here](#).

Members' News

Tram manager sleeping rough for charity

Nottingham's tram network is stepping up its support for some of the most vulnerable people in the communities it serves by backing an initiative highlighting the plight of rough sleepers.

As the dark nights draw in and the temperatures drop, Commercial Manager Chris Williams will be joining volunteers and supporters of the charity Framework for a 'Big Sleep Out' at Nottingham Racecourse.

The event later this month also aims to raise money for Framework, a charity that supports the homeless in Nottinghamshire and has plans to build 200 new homes over the next five years. You can read the full story [here](#).



Christmas cheer at Seaton

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ is coming to Seaton Tramway in Devon on selected dates throughout November and December!

Families can enjoy the magical tram ride to Santa's home at the North Pole in one of the specially decorated single-deck tramcars, enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, a delicious treat, speak to Santa and admire the awesome lights whilst they walk around the North Pole.

Children will also receive the first gift of Christmas from Santa himself and on the return journey, visitors can enjoy singing along to Christmas carols.

For the grown-up kids, the events offer a trip down memory lane to a traditional Christmas of old. Further details can be found [here](#).



Simulator installed in Edinburgh

New drivers set to operate Trams to Newhaven, once the line is open next year, are already in training, thanks to a state-of-the-art, custom-built simulator at Edinburgh Trams' Gogar Tram Depot.

A full-size replica cab unit enables drivers to experience almost five kilometres of new track and eight stops connecting Leith and Newhaven to the city centre, as well as the existing route from Edinburgh Airport to St Andrew Square.

The simulator includes lifelike imagery and landmarks along the route, and footage used can be viewed on Trams to Newhaven's YouTube channel [here](#). The full story can also be found [here](#).

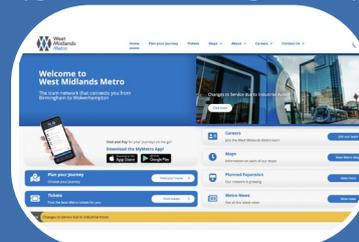


New website

The West Midlands Metro website now has a new look which offers customers easier access to the latest information on tram services and ticketing information.

Launched over the summer, the eye-catching and user-friendly upgrades have been designed to improve customer experience by making it easier to navigate a range of useful features.

These include regular service updates, tram times and updated route maps following the successful launch of services to Edgbaston Village.



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