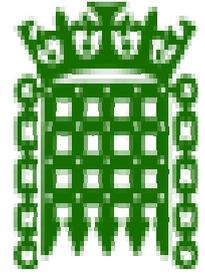


Light Rail (UK)

All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

"The past we inherit, the future we build"
Trams – Catalysts for Jobs, Renewal & Regeneration



Houston opens two light rail lines



May 2015

Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (Metro) celebrated the opening of two new light rail lines over the weekend of May 23.

The 5.3km East/Green Line runs southeast from Theatre District in downtown to Altic/Howard Hughes serving seven stations, while the 9.8km Southeast/Purple Line shares tracks with the Green Line from Theatre District to EaDo/Stadium from where it heads south to Palm Centre Transit centre via the University of Houston Central Campus, and Texas Southern University.

The line is served by a fleet of 39 H3 LRVs supplied by CAF USA with the first six vehicles entering service in January on the North Main Street (Red) line.

The 29.6m-long vehicles can accommodate up to 242 passengers, 64 of them seated.

Metro hosted "Railfest" on May 23 to mark the start of the service, which included a free concert and fireworks display, while all rides on the new service were free throughout the day.

This meeting 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 & Trams.

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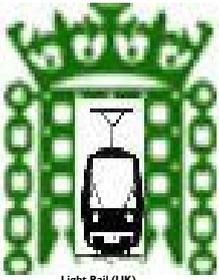
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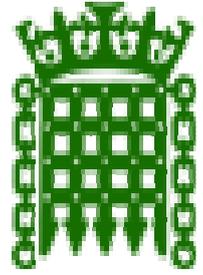


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"Since construction started you can see the difference that light rail is making in these neighbourhoods," says Metro chairman Mr Gilbert Garcia. "Old businesses are expanding and new businesses are emerging."

A further two-station extension of the Green Line is under construction on an existing freight line which take the service to the Magnolia Transit Centre.

The extension is expected to open in 2017.

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