

Midland Metro

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Summary

The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill scheme is fully consistent with transportation and planning policies at national, regional and local levels. The scheme is an energy efficient, high quality transport system which produces low levels of pollution, is capable of coping with an increase in demand for travel and is accessible to all. A principal aim of the scheme is to reduce reliance on the private car. The importance of, and requirement for, improved public transport services is recognised at the European, national and the regional level due to the opportunities offered for greater integration within, and between, different types of transport.

The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill scheme is in accordance with European and national transport policies, which promote sustainable transport systems. Both the European and UK Transport White Papers support the role of rapid transit systems such as the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill scheme in delivering integrated transport in urban areas. More specifically, the former DTLR's ten year investment plan for transport ⁽⁶⁾ states that trams "can play a significant part in improving the attractiveness and quality of public transport in major conurbations" (para 6.43). The scheme is also in accordance with strategic policy objectives which seek to reduce the impact of traffic on the environment, to reduce the public's dependence on use of the private car, and to encourage the use of public transport.

(1) ERM (July 2002) **Midland Metro - Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension: Environmental Scoping Report**.

(2) See, for example, Directorate General Environment, European Commission (2001) **Guidance on EIA: Scoping**.

(3) Environment Agency (May 2002) **A handbook for scoping projects**.

(4) Lloyds Register MHA Ltd (December 2002) **Electromagnetic Compatibility of the Midland Metro Light Rail System**.

(5) European Transport White Paper: **European Transport Policy for 2010: Time to Decide**, Commission of the European Communities, September 2001.

(6) Transport 2010: The 10 Year Plan, DTLR, July 2000