



NEWS RELEASE 08/05

DATE: 14th November 2008

With major changes proposed or about to affect rail and bus services, representatives from the transport operators, government and user groups are due to meet in Leicester next week at the TRAVELWATCH EAST MIDLANDS CONFERENCE.

Road congestion and public transport as an alternative to car use, was the theme of our 2007 autumn conference but subsequently,

- The transport authorities have decided not to proceed further with the "6cs" Study of congestion
- Nottingham is to implement its workplace parking scheme and extend the tram system
- The new rail operators' plan major timetable changes and
- They face problems with rolling stock availability/network capacity.

Good public transport services are vital to the economic and social well-being of our Region, but despite the increasing cost of motoring, public transport is still unattractive to many.

This year's event focuses on how public transport in the region can be improved and gives an opportunity for all concerned to contribute to that debate (see programme attached) and speakers will include:

- **Barry Davies** - Head of Regional Transport for the East Midlands
- **Tim Shoveller** - Managing Director - *East Midlands Trains*
- **Spencer Gibbens** - Route Enhancement Manager - *Network Rail*
- **Cllr Jane Urquhart** - Portfolio holder for Transport - *Nottingham City Council*
- **Tricia Pedler** - East Midlands Development Agency
- **Bob Hind** - Managing Director - *Arriva Midlands*
- **Alex Veitch** - Senior Strategy Analyst - *Assoc'n of Train Operators* and
- **Anthony Smith** - is the Chief Executive of Passenger Focus

The event starts at 9.30am at the VAL Centre, Mewarke Street Leicester

For further information contact:

- Stephen Abbott on 01858 466629
- Alan Meredith on 0116 230 3895

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Notes for Editors:

TravelWatch East Midlands is an alliance of groups representing the consumer interest across all modes of public transport. The organisation's aim is to represent the interests and concerns of public transport passengers across all forms of transport and to assist local and regional authorities' work towards an integrated and seamless quality public transport network for the East Midlands region.

Its mission is to champion public transport so that it becomes:

- Accessible to everyone – including the mobility impaired
- Affordable and socially inclusive
- Available when and where needed
- Acceptable to all, whatever mode is chosen
- Attractive – with high quality of services and reliable information

By bringing together within a single body, representative groups of bus, rail, light rail, air and other passengers, TravelWatch East Midlands offers passengers an opportunity for strong consumer representation and to regional policy makers a route to engage with transport consumers on an integrated basis throughout the region.

Website : **www.travelwatcheastmidlands.org.uk**

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Ends.