

# TRAM TRAIN

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is a Tram Train?

A Tram Train is a tram-type vehicle that has the signalling, power supply, control and telecommunications technology to run on both street tram lines and the rail network. Passengers can make a single journey between tram stops and conventional rail stations on a Tram Train.

### 2. What is the Tram Train pilot?

The Tram Train project is a trial or 'pilot' being held in South Yorkshire to see if the technology can be used elsewhere in the UK. It will run for two years while customer satisfaction, passenger numbers, reliability and costs are tested. The lessons learned will be published for the benefit of the rail industry and other areas. Tram Train will carry on as a local service if it is successful. South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive is delivering the pilot with Network Rail, Northern Rail and Stagecoach Supertram. It is funded by the Department for Transport.

### 3. Where will Tram Trains run?

Tram Trains will run between Sheffield City Centre, Rotherham Central and Parkgate retail park. The service will run on the existing tram lines in Sheffield and use the stops between Cathedral and Meadowhall South before travelling on the national rail network to Parkgate via Rotherham Central station. Tram Trains will share the rail line with passenger and freight train services.

### 4. What is being built?

A new 400m piece of track (called a chord) will be built near Tinsley to connect the tram lines and rail lines. You can [read more about Tinsley chord](#) on the Network Rail website. The rail line between the chord and Parkgate will be electrified (to 750 V) and its signal system updated to let Tram Trains run. New Tram Train platforms will be built at Rotherham Central and Parkgate and overhead power lines installed. Changes have been made to the tram depot so it can house Tram Trains. Parts of the tram network have also been replaced with new tracks to prepare for the service.

### 5. When will services start?

The new vehicles will initially be introduced on the existing Supertram network in 2017 prior to operation on the Tram Train service between Sheffield Cathedral and Parkgate via the heavy rail network in 2018.

### 6. Why has the project been rescheduled?

Tram Train is a first for the UK. The design and planning to make Tram Trains run on the rail network is complex. A revised construction programme will see Tram Train infrastructure complete during Summer 2018. Passenger services will start following testing and driver training on the new system.

All parties remain committed to the Tram Train pilot and to delivering the regional connectivity and economic benefits it will bring.

### **7. How often will services run?**

Three Tram Trains an hour will travel between Sheffield and Rotherham. The running time from Parkgate to Cathedral will be about 25 minutes.

### **8. What are the Tram Train vehicles like?**

South Yorkshire's Tram Trains are Citylink Class 399 vehicles that are being built by a company called Stadler Rail in Spain. They meet the strict vehicle safety of a train but look similar to a tram. They are 37 metres long and are made up of three articulated sections with three motor bogies and one trailer bogie. Tram Trains have Road Traffic Act compliant head lights and direction indicators, horns, wing mirrors, rear-view camera displays, pneumatic suspension and will be painted in the Stagecoach Supertram livery. Their brakes are designed to stop safely in all conditions, including city centre traffic. Specially designed wheels fit the rail profiles of both the tram and main line systems. Tram Trains are fitted with train protection and warning systems (TPWS) and the railway global system for mobile communication (GSM-R) equipment.

Tram Trains are dual voltage vehicles that can run on the 750 V Overhead Lines (OHLE) of Supertram's network and the 25 kV OHLE of the national rail network. The whole route will be electrified to 750 V. Their dual voltage means the vehicles are 'future-proofed' for higher voltage rail lines. Seven new trams have been delivered for the project and are stabled at Stagecoach Supertram's Nunnery Square depot. Of these seven, three will run on the Supertram network and three will run as Tram Trains between Sheffield City Centre and Parkgate. One vehicle will be used as a spare.

### **9. What facilities do Tram Trains have?**

The Tram Train interior is much like that of a tram. Access for passengers is the same and Tram Trains will have a conductor. They have CCTV and digital stop displays. There is some luggage space and the seats are bigger. Tram Trains do not have toilets like trains because they do not travel on long journeys. Each vehicle can carry 88 seated and 150 standing passengers. The journey terms and conditions, including rules for taking bikes, dogs and mobility scooters onboard, will be set by Stagecoach Supertram.

### **10. What tickets will be used?**

The tickets that can be used on Tram Trains are still to be decided. The idea is to make travelling on any public transport service between Rotherham and Sheffield as flexible as possible. Passengers will be able to use Tram Train tickets on Supertram and vice versa and be able to buy most tickets from the conductor, so it is not necessary to purchase in advance. Senior and disabled concessionary travel entitlement on Tram Trains will be consistent with Supertram services. Fares for the Tram Train service will be thought of as an extension of the Supertram urban tramway service.

### **11. Will there be any more Tram Train stops?**

More Tram Train stops could be introduced in other places or the service extended if the pilot is successful and this can be funded. There is a strong aspiration to introduce new connections to other parts of Sheffield City Region via both Tram Train and traditional tram infrastructure.

### **12. Who looks after the service?**

South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE) is delivering the Tram Train pilot with Network Rail, Northern Rail, Stagecoach Supertram and the Department for Transport (DfT). The pilot is funded by the DfT. SYLTE manages the legal framework, will maintain the tram line part of the Tram Train route, owns the vehicles and looks after the contract (concession) for the company that runs the Tram Trains. Network Rail will maintain the rail line part of the Tram Train route. Stagecoach Supertram will run the Tram Trains (under their current concession), employ drivers and conductors, and maintain the vehicles at their depot at Nunnery Square.

### **13. Will Tram Train create any jobs?**

There will be up to 35 jobs created by the Tram Train pilot, including drivers and conductors. Tram Train also aims to help people in Sheffield and Rotherham travel to jobs, education and training. The extra transport link will offer better connections between businesses in the two areas and across the region to help the local economy to grow.

### **14. Where can I learn more about Tram Train?**

More information about South Yorkshire's Tram Train pilot:

- online at [www.sylte.co.uk/tramtrain](http://www.sylte.co.uk/tramtrain)
- call the SYLTE communications team on 0114 221 1443
- email [communications@sylte.co.uk](mailto:communications@sylte.co.uk)