Trams to Leith and Newhaven

Edinburgh Trams carried 4,920,000 passengers in the first year of operation, 370,000 ahead of target. Passenger satisfaction is running at 95%, and service reliability is 99%. The high capacity of the trams (each tram can carry 250 passengers) is particularly useful at events, for instance at Murrayfield stadium, allowing large crowds to be transported efficiently.

The City Council is considering extending the line from York Place. The best Benefit-to-Cost ratio is for a 4.7 km extension to Newhaven, estimated at £144 million. SAPT supports this option which will give:

- Better quality public transport integrated with trains and buses
- Zero emissions, lower traffic congestion, and health and road safety benefits
- Higher international profile for Edinburgh as an attractive city for business and tourism

Capital Transport

Edinburgh's main thoroughfare (above) compares poorly with city centres in Austria's capital Vienna (right) and the Swiss capital Bern (lower right).

Both these cities have environmentally friendly, integrated transport networks with zero-emission, high capacity trams playing a key role in carrying large numbers of people efficiently into the city centre.

City streets have lower congestion. Pavements are wider, giving citizens and tourists a much more pleasant experience than on congested pavements on Princes St.

Extending the Edinburgh Tram to Newhaven is an opportunity to integrate bus and more frequent tram services to reduce congestion and atmospheric pollution on Leith Walk and Princes Street.

SAPT recommends Tram extension for:
- Better public transport
- Cleaner air, better health
- Less city-centre road congestion

We hope Edinburgh Councillors can give the go-ahead to this beneficial project.

Typical view in Princes Street (above). Not much space left for people, cycles, or trams!

Trams reduce road congestion in Vienna city centre

The citizens of Bern enjoy a placid and pollution-free central zone