Is Tram-Train a Solution for Your Transport Needs?

Rob Carroll

Technical Principal - Materials

What is Tram-Train?



A Tram-Train is...

 A light rail vehicle that can operate with few operational restrictions as a tram on the tramway and as a train on the railway.



Benefits of Tram-Train

- A seamless journey for passengers
- Better links to the heart of City Centres
- Faster journeys for passenger even though the services can be slower
- Use existing infrastructure
- Reduced costs compared to new build

Increased sustainability/reduced capital carbon

- Provide additional heavy rail capacity at city centre stations by moving local services on to tramways
- Better integration into destination areas



Challenges of Tram-T

- Technically complex
 - Multiple interfaces
 - Different standards
- Operational and cultural differences between tramways and railways
- Vehicles more expensive and heavier than trams but cheaper and lighter than trains
- Multiple stakeholders
 - Tramway/Highways and Railway
- Safety Assurance
 - Tramway/Highways and Railway
- Operational Capacity and Performance
 - Tramway/Highways and Railway





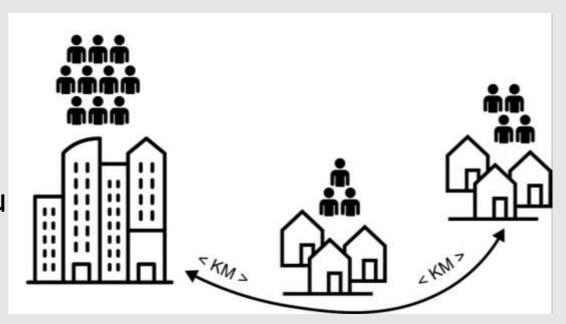
When is Tram-Train Appropriate?

• Tram-Train is not a nirvana – it is not a solution for all transport problems

Needs to be used in the right circumstances

What are the right circumstances?

How do you assess if your scheme is su



Tram-Train Implementation Support Tool (T-TIST)

Developed by Sander Willer as part of an MSc at TU Delft sponsored by Mott MacDonald

Refined over the last few years by Mott MacDonald

Provides a quick assessment of potential schemes for suitability of using tram-train

18 scoring criteria that includes:

- Population of city and regional corridor
- Transport demand
- Relation between urban region and city
- Existing rail and tram networks
- Connection between networks
- Sustainability of project cost and carbon
- Quality of integrated network
- Political and Commercial environment



Tram-train: when is it a suitable mode?

Development of a model to determine applicability of tram-train

January 2019

Sander Wille

T-TIST Output

Each criteria is scored based on information readily available on the proposed scheme

Each criteria has a weighting assigned to it based on expert knowledge of scheme development

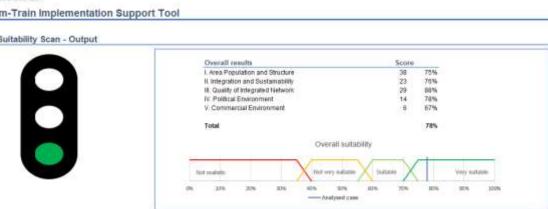
Some critical criteria are classed as "Show Stoppers"

Output is an overall score and a ranking of suitability

M MOTT M MACDONALD Tram-Train Implementation Support Tool Suitability Scan - Output

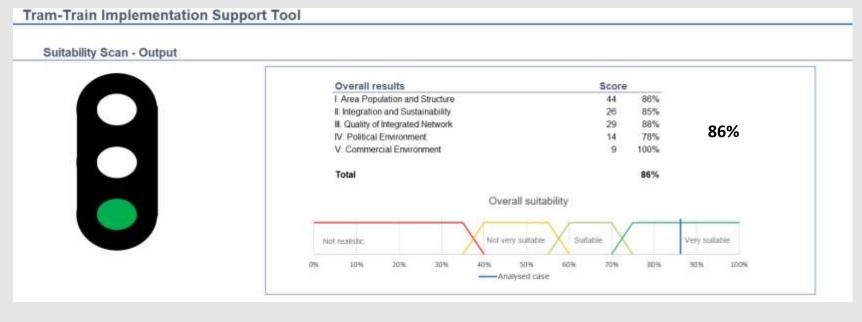
With a traffic light:

Green – Suitable or very suitable for further investigati Amber – Could be suitable with refinement Red – Not suitable or show stoppers that need to be addre

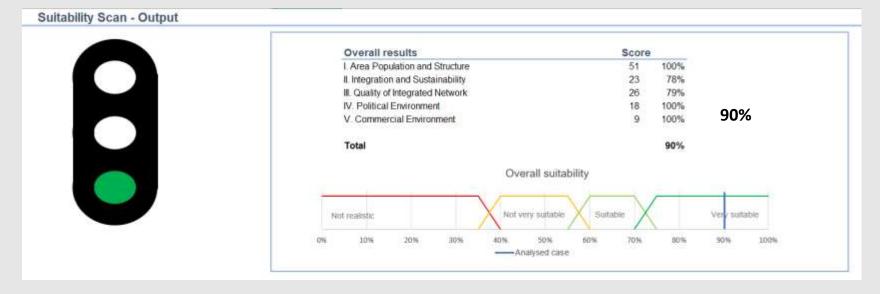


T-TIST Example Results

Sheffield - Rotherham



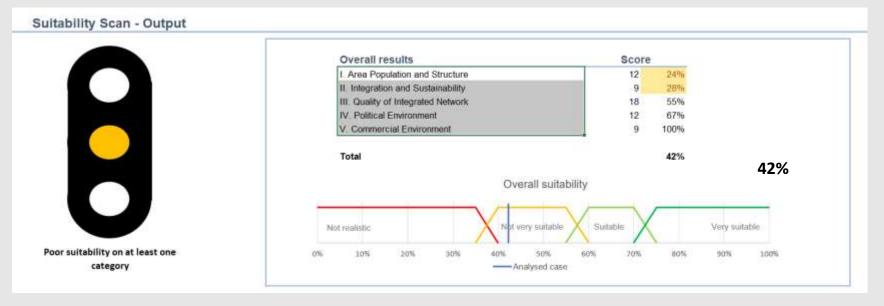
Cardiff - Core Valley Lines with Planned Tramway Extensions

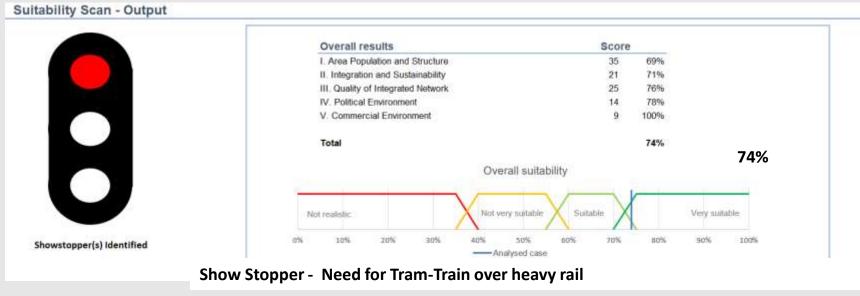


T-TIST Example Results

Reopening Railway – Rural Branch Line

Reopening Railway – Connecting Two Railway Lines





Restoring Your Railway

- UK Department for Transport Scheme
- £500m to "Reverse Beeching"
- Anyone could promote a scheme as long as it was supported by an MP
- 3 rounds of bids 2020 to 2021
- Open to all forms of transport technology

203 ideas submitted

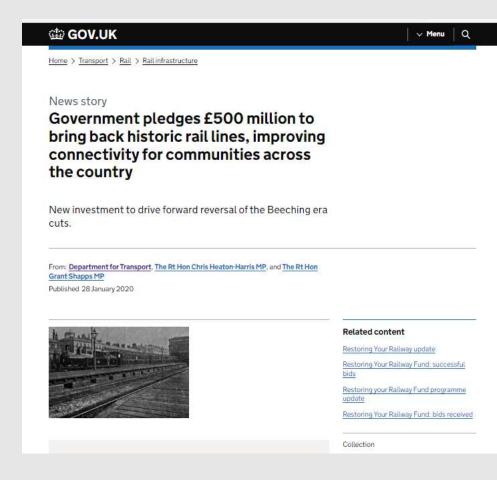
56 for station reopening

31 introducing passenger services on existing heavy rail lines

9 introducing public transport services on heritage railways

3 miscellaneous

104 schemes for reopening



T-TIST Assessment

T-TIST used to assess over 40 potential schemes – many from RYR plus some additional schemes identified by Mott MacDonald.

- 10 schemes very suitable
- 13 schemes suitable
- 15 schemes not very suitable
- 2 schemes not realistic

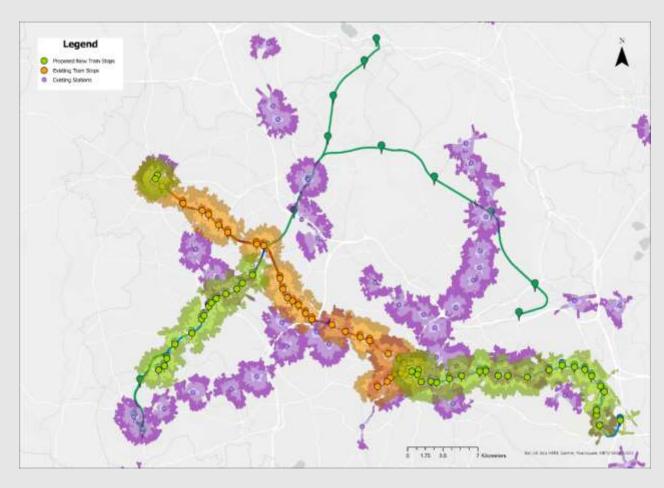
The schemes classed as suitable or very suitable include schemes around the UK with a significant number in the North and Midlands.

Some are schemes that are in the public domain with plans for development. Others are not currently identified as potential schemes.

Next Steps

- Shortlist
 - Some of the shortlisted schemes being investigated further.
 - Analysis using GIS software to study:
- Demographics around potential stop locations
- Integration with other transport modes
- Potential alignments and construction types
- Journey times
- Likely capacity issues on tramway and railway

 Potential schemes to be discussed with likely promoters



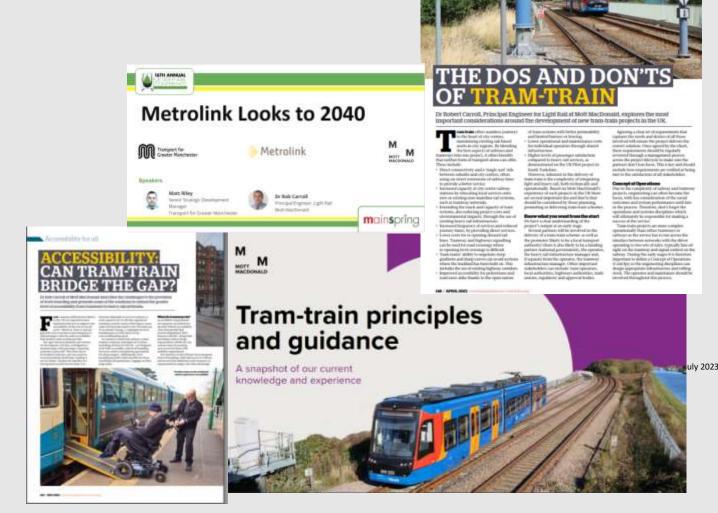
Come and Talk to Us

Mott MacDonald Tram-Train Group

- Light Rail and Tramway
- Heavy Rail
- Rolling Stock
- Transport Planning
- Operational Modelling
- Project Management
- Safety Assurance

If you have an idea for a potential scheme or want to know more about tram-train

Email: tram-train@mottmac.com





Thank you