

Pitfalls and Positives

Edinburgh Trams – a political
perspective

Edinburgh Trams pitfalls

- Is it needed or just replacing existing transport
- Try for political unity – danger in political football
- Construction is a nightmare – like a war zone
- Don't underestimate disruption to business, residents (take care with any compensation scheme)

Edinburgh trams pitfalls

- Use industry standard contracts. Bespoke contracts simply land you in court!
- 40 per cent contingency in Edinburgh all used – and the rest!
- Political oversight of delivery essential
- Commercial confidentiality versus ability to interrogate delivery in detail
- (difficult if can't trust in confidentiality)

Edinburgh Trams pitfalls

- Known unknowns and unknown unknowns!
- Utilities moving!! Hole with 8 people looking into it, mysterious cables and pipes, potential 'gold plating' by utilities
- Archaeology (medieval wall, plague cemetery etc)
- Cycling lobby
- People facing public transport cuts not on tram route

Edinburgh Trams pitfalls

- Communications vital: make it a great story; get on the front foot
- Get the processes integrated. Dig up and move utilities – wait – dig up and lay concrete bases – wait- dig up and lay signalling – wait – dig up to lay tracks and install wire supports!
- Beware of express buses undercutting trams
- Concessionary fares!

Edinburgh tram positives

- Performing about 5% better than business case
- Popular with those who live near it (though growing problem of unofficial park and ride at tram stops)
- Decision on extension in next few months
- Public Inquiry report due imminently
- Interest in extending network