

Glasgow Subway celebrated with Red Wheel from the National Transport Trust

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A commemorative plaque has been unveiled in the city centre to celebrate 125 years of the Glasgow Subway system.

The Red Wheel was added to the former ticket office in St Enoch Square yesterday marking the Clockwork Orange as a “significant site of historical importance to transport heritage in the UK”.

This is one of only two Red Wheels, which are decided by the National Transport Trust, in Glasgow.



The first was awarded to Glasgow Queen Street in recognition of the Glasgow and Edinburgh Railway.



NTT deputy chairman Jerry Swift said: "The National Transport Trust is delighted that the Subway is the subject of Glasgow's second Red Wheel. "The Subway serves as a symbol of international significance being the third-oldest underground metro in the world.

"Its place and significance in the public transport system in Glasgow cannot be over-estimated. It has played, and continues to play, a key role in the transport system in the city for more than a century."

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Speaking at a small ceremony yesterday, SPT Chair Councillor Dr Martin Bartos said: "We're really proud of our subway, so to have it recognised alongside only a handful of other Red Wheels in Scotland is fantastic.

"It may not be the biggest or the grandest, but our Subway is small, perfectly formed and gets the job done. "When visitors come to the city it makes them smile, and it makes us smile daily too."

As for what the future holds for the system, Dr Bartos says we should expect a modernised service that stays true to the subway's historic legacy. He said:

"Over the last decade, there has been an awful lot happening underground that people don't see. The system is currently undergoing its third major modernisation in its lifetime. While the rest of the city sleeps, Subway staff have been hard at work to upgrade tunnels and design new control systems for future train sets. For the next few months, there will be someone driving one of the trains around our routes to make sure that it's up to scratch. It's a tricky process but we have a fantastic team who are just as passionate about the Subway as the people of Glasgow are. Who knows what the next 125 years will bring?"

The Glasgow Subway first opened on December 14 1896 and is the third oldest in the world after London and Budapest. Work is currently underway to 'strengthen and modernise' the original Victorian tunnels before testing begins for 17 new trains.

