AVON
LRT BILL

THE Private Bill for the first section of the Avon Metro Light Rapid Transit system proposed by Advanced Transport for Avon (ATA) was due to be deposited in Parliament as this issue of *Modern Railways* is published. It covers use of the freight-only branch line from Portishead, running on via a new curve to the old Port of Bristol lines along the Avon to Wapping Wharf, for opening in 1991.

The use of a Private Bill avoids the possibility of a public inquiry into the scheme.

ATA's Chairman, Richard Cottrell, Member of the European Parliament for Bristol, is confident that the full scheme, estimated to cost about £385 million, can be accomplished on the basis of the anticipated appreciation of land values as the system opens. The contribution on this basis will nowhere be less than 50%, he says, but full details have not been publicised.

The second phase, for which a bill would be deposited next November, would take tracks on from Wapping Wharf, running through Bristol city centre on the streets, via Broadmead shopping centre and on via a flyover to Temple Meads station, continuing to Lawrence Hill using the redundant space on the former four-track formation for two extra tracks. Here lines would continue north, on a flyover across Bristol Parkway station to the large private housing estates at Bradley Stoke, and west via Filton, past the British Aerospace/Rolls Royce works on the freight-only line to Avonmouth, branching north to Cribbs Causeway, the out-of-town shopping centre. Also included in phase two would be a line to south Bristol — poorly connected at present but an area of 'massive' development — from Temple Meads via Bedminster to Hartcliffe, involving street running, but with the precise route to be determined.

The third phase would take in Yate and Bath, via the redundant Midland Railway routes currently used as cycle-ways, involv-

Below:
Diagram of the completed light-rail system, subject to possible considerable alteration, as phase three proposals have reached only an outline stage.

ROUTE MAP

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