



Example 17 **Accessible Light Rail Transit System**

City (country) **Dublin (Ireland)**

Similar service in Alicante (Spain), Bilbao (Spain), Porto (Portugal), Stockholm (Sweden),
Valencia (Spain)

good practice for people with ...	kind of vehicle	kind of measure/approach
... motor impairment ... visual impairment ... hearing impairment	tram local train	engineering/technology approach financial support measure organisational/operational support

Project description

LUAS (Irish for speed) is the name of the light rail transit system in Dublin that aims to provide an accessible and attractive mode of public transport unique for Dublin. It is compliant with current accessibility standards and offers accessibility for all. The system is especially focused on people with mobility and sensory impairments and offers full wheelchair access as well as adapted surfacing, furniture, stop facilities, large visible signage, audio announcements and destination displays. It was designed in consultation with disability groups.

With entry to the cars at the same height as the platform and long ramps for easy access to the platform, the system is especially accessible to people with motor impairments. In addition there are two specially designed areas in the tram for wheelchair users. Four priority seats for those with special requirements are also reserved.

For the visually impaired changes in level inside the tram are highlighted with a yellow stripe, and an audio signal sounds when the wide doors are closing and will not open again until the tram is positioned correctly at the next stop. There are numerous bright yellow handrails for optimum visibility. For guide dogs there are spaces under the designated seats. Through displays in upper and lower case lettering and automatic audio announcements passengers are provided with information such as the next station name.

The platforms are paved with tactile bricks and there are emergency help points from which anybody can set up a connection to the Central Control Room and be watched by the staff via CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) system.

Implementing staff training and awareness initiatives further enhances the accessibility of the system. On LUAS’s web page there is a downloadable newsletter which serves as a one-stop guide to facilities for people with impaired mobility. Information in accessible formats is available from the Veolia Transport system and includes a tactile map of a tram as well as audio and Braille information. Passengers with a Department of Social Family Affairs (DSFA) pass and pensioners travel free on LUAS.

Source:
 LUAS, Dublin's Light Rail Tram System: Accessibility Newsletters: www.luas.ie/accessibility.php (19/10/2007)