

Example 18 **Transport for All Programme – Accessible Bus Fleet and Awareness Campaigns**

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



good practice for people with ...	kind of vehicle	kind of measure/approach
... motor impairment ... visual impairment ... hearing impairment	city bus	engineering/technology approach awareness building

Project description

In addition to the newly implemented light rail transit system (LUAS, see example 17), there has also been a change towards more accessible public bus transport in Dublin. In January 2000, the local public transport provider in Dublin, “Dublin Bus,” decided to buy only low-floor wheelchair-accessible buses in the future. As of now, low-floor buses make up over 50% of the fleet and operate on one third of the routes. The low-floor network will increase as the company replaces 100 buses per year with the goal of having all of their services fully accessible by 2012.

The new buses have, among others, the following features:

- low-floor single-step entry
- kneeling suspension to further reduce entry step height
- retractable ramp at entrance door
- a priority space for a wheelchair user (but only for one!) which may also be used for a buggy
- wider aisles for customer comfort
- increased headroom
- improved interior lighting and heating
- improved grip bars
- palm activated bell pushes
- high visibility electronic destination displays on the front of buses

In addition, Dublin Bus has introduced a programme to raise awareness about accessible services among the disabled community. This programme shows how the “Transport for All” project has developed and new accessible services are presented. Upon request a low-floor bus can be supplied so that people can experience the new features of the bus without any time pressure. A disability consultant also takes part in this event.

Sources:

Dublin Bus: Travel Assistance, http://www.dublinbus.ie/your_journey/pdf/travell_assistant_brochure.pdf (21/10/2007)

Dublin Bus: Accessibility, http://www.dublinbus.ie/your_journey/accessibility.asp (21/10/2007)