



Example 30 **Engagement of Public Transport Providers for the Barrier-Free Design of Public Transport Stops**

Country **Germany**

good practice for people with ...	kind of vehicle	kind of measure/approach
... motor impairment ... visual impairment	city bus tram	engineering/technology approach organisational/operational support

Project description

There is a broad consensus that low-floor vehicles are necessary but not sufficient for providing barrier-free public transport. However, there is no consensus to answering the question of which additional infrastructure, techniques and equipment is necessary for “real” barrier-free public transport.

This contribution presents the results of a standardised survey among 300 German public transport providers, which was carried out from the end of 2003 to the middle of 2004. The high response rate of 40 % shows that the companies are aware of and interested in the problem of barrier-free public transport. Most of the companies have a special person who is responsible for all issues related to the needs of people with reduced mobility but often this person does not really have a voice in planning decisions. The most frequent topics of joint decisions with the person responsible for the needs of reduced-mobility riders are the design of stops (50%), the development of the local public transport plans (32%) and the ordering of new vehicles (32%). In 21% of the companies, the person responsible for the needs of reduced-mobility passengers has no voice at all in planning decisions.

The number of low-floor buses amounts on average to 74% of all buses, and 40 companies have only low-floor buses. The number of low-floor trams amounts on average to 63%. Six companies have only low-floor trams. Many current activities were reported that aim at better adapting the stop design to the needs of reduced-mobility passengers. Adapting the level of the platform to the low-floor vehicles was stated as the most pressing problem, along with providing better information (acoustic, tactile, visual) at the stop.

Source:
DER NAHVERKEHR 12/2004: Haltestellen barrierefrei gestalten (de), pp. 20-22