



Example 38 **Heated Pedestrian Surfaces to Ensure Safe Traffic**

City (country) **Jyväskylä (Finland)**

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

Project description

It is very important to reduce the danger of accidents, especially for people with reduced mobility who normally feel less confident than others when moving around. This becomes even more important during the winter. To ensure safe traffic the municipalities have organised a winter service that keeps the streets and pavements free from ice and snow. But it is not possible for this service to keep all streets free from this slippery source of danger.

The city of Jyväskylä has equipped some pavements with a heating system which improves the critical situation of snow and ice covered surfaces. This system melts snow and ice and makes it easier and safer for pedestrians to walk and for wheelchair users to move. But this system also benefits the visually impaired. Snow covered areas are not only difficult to walk on but also show poor contrast. With the heating system the important contrasts of the surroundings reappear and help the visually impaired orientate themselves on the pavements.

Because the city could not equip all pedestrian areas with the heating system, the municipality organised a winter maintenance programme that includes the clearance of the snow as soon as possible after a snowfall. The entire programme also helps maintain and facilitate access to the public transport infrastructure for the general public and especially for mobility-reduced people.

Source:

European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT): Improving Transport Accessibility for All – GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE, Paris (2006), p.30