



Example 39                      **Pilot Project LaneLights to Signal Public Transport Crossings**

City (country)                      **Karlsruhe (Germany)**

good practice for people with ...	kind of vehicle	kind of measure/approach
... motor impairment ... visual impairment	tram	engineering/technology approach

**Project description**

Many people are familiar with this situation: during a short SMS conversation or a simple chat with the friend next to you the tram suddenly sounds its warning ring tone. Especially at highly frequented stations or blind intersections, one can easily overlook the traffic lights. The so-called lane light should help improve this kind of situation.

Originally, lane lights in the form of LED-lights that are integrated directly in the road surface were used for sign posting. Other uses of lane lights include the blocking of certain road lanes or the creation of safer pedestrian crossings.

The local public transport provider in Karlsruhe has now integrated five LED-lights perpendicular to the pedestrian walking direction at the station ZMK (Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie) crossing. As soon as a tram approaches and activates the red traffic light, the LED-lights in the road surface begin to blink yellow with a frequency of two hertz. Even someone who is looking directly down at the road is warned before crossing the tracks.

The integration of these lane lights is so far a pilot project. Its costs amount to roughly 7,000 Euros. A simultaneous scientific investigation will analyse to what degree the lane lights positively influence the behaviour of the pedestrians. The method used for this analysis is ex-ante with ex-post video filming which provides the basis for the evaluation of the project. In case of a positive evaluation, more lane lights will be installed, the manager of the local public transport provider has announced.

Source:

Newstix: Verkehrsbetriebe Karlsruhe (VBK): Pilotprojekt "LaneLights" an der Haltestelle ZKM (de), <http://www.newstix.de/index.php?site=&entmsg=true&ref=RNL&mid=4871> (22/20/2007)