



Example 53                      **Personal Electronic Navigation in the Metropolitan Underground System**

City (country)                      **Paris (France)**

Similar service in                      London (UK)

good practice for people with ...	kind of vehicle	kind of measure/approach
... visual impairment	underground	engineering/technology approach organisational/operational support

**Project description**

In big cities like Paris and London the metropolitan underground plays an important role in public transportation. The metropolitan railway systems of London and Paris have an interest and a duty to provide improved facilities for visually impaired persons.

The TIDE project (technology initiative for disabled and elderly people) aims at raising the level of information available to blind or partially sighted users on the underground systems of London and Paris and therefore to help blind or partially sighted people find their way. The navigation system, developed by a consortium involving organisations representing blind and partially sighted people, industries and universities, will make it easier for users to find specific features of the underground system such as ticket areas, barriers, stairs, escalators, platforms and other obstacles and will provide information to aid orientation.

The visually impaired user of the system wears a receiver and can access information only on personal demand at key points in each station where several beacons are mounted. The blind or partially sighted user will receive messages or information from the beacon, using modulated infrared beams, in an appropriate European language. Simple messages such as the user's location within the station and how to proceed to another part of the station are fixed in time, but information like the destination and time of the next arriving train vary with time. The user can decide whether to access the information available.

Source:

CORDIS: Orientation by Personal Electronic Navigation, <http://cordis.europa.eu/en/home.html> - Information Services - 10. Projects - Orientation by Personal Electronic Navigation (24/10/2007)