



Research

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Projects are listed in chronological order (most recent first). Links to all our research reports and conclusions are also available from the '[Publications and other resources](#)' section.

The Effects of Bus Gangway Steps on Accessibility (2005)

A research project to investigate the passenger accessibility and usability of Mercedes-Benz Citaro low-floor buses. The study was jointly funded by the Department, Transport for London (TfL) which operated some of the buses and EvoBus (UK) Ltd, the vehicle importer.

A full report for this research project is available (<http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/buses/pubs/research/accessibilitycitarofinalreport>).

Assessment of Route and Destination Displays (2004)

To enhance bus use for all passengers an inclusive approach to information provision needs to be adopted. To this end, research was undertaken to identify improvements to display design which would be of benefit to all passengers. Members of the public participated in the research, including people with a range of visual impairments, and the different forms of display technology were assessed under day and night time conditions. The research made recommendations for improved readability.

A summary and full report for this research project are available. (<http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/safety/roads/>)

The safety of wheelchair occupants in road passenger vehicles (2003)

The aim of this research was to assess the safety of wheelchair users when being transported in all types of road passenger vehicles when compared with travellers seated in conventional seats (fitted with head restraints). In cases where the safety of the wheelchair user was lower than that of other passengers, or considered unacceptable for other reasons, modifications were assessed and a detailed package of recommendations are contained within the report.

The full report can be found here:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/tipws/thesafetyofwheelchairoccupan6168>

Wheels Within Wheels: A guide to using a wheelchair on public transport (2005)

This guide, published in 2005 by Ricability in conjunction with the Department for Transport and others, tells people who need to remain in their wheelchairs what they can expect from newer trains, coaches, buses and taxis. It contains information on how users can find out where accessible services are running and gives tips on travelling in a wheelchair. It also lists the key dimensions of the wheelchairs currently available in the UK and which of these will fit onto public transport.

A specification for Wheelchair Boarding Ramps (2003)

This specification, developed jointly between the Department for Transport and the Society of Manufacturers and Traders, details the voluntary requirements for a ramp fitted to a Regulated Public Service Vehicle first used on or after 1 January 2004. It takes as a baseline the legislative requirements of the PSVAR and enhances these through attention to design detail in relation to ramp surface, and at various interface points, to greatly improve wheelchair accessibility.

The full specification can be found here:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/buses/pubs/research/wheelchairboardingramps>

The "Announce" System (2001)

Arrive Yorkshire, in partnership with the Department for Transport (DfT), the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, Metro, Hanover Displays and Wayfarer Transit Systems introduced the trial of the Announce System on one of their routes, the 110 service between Leeds and Wakefield in March 2001. The aim of the Announce system is to make journey information more accessible for hearing and visually impaired people, along with passengers unfamiliar to the area or route. It is an audio/visual broadcasting system featuring a speaking voice and visual display, telling passengers which stop they are at. For customers waiting for the bus there is also a speaker focused to the exterior of the bus informing them what service is at the bus stop, and in which direction it is going.

A summary and full monitoring report on the results of the trial are available.

Low Floor Bus Trials in a Rural Area (1999)

Four Super Low Floor (SLF) buses were introduced to the T1 bus route in Cornwall on the 12th April 1997 as part of a survey, involving this Department, Cornwall County Council, Rural Development Commission and Truronian. The survey was conducted over a period of 14 months. It aimed to assess passengers and local people's views on the vehicles, to monitor the effect on patronage levels and to consider the viability (in terms of costs) of the use of SLF vehicles in a rural location.

More information on the project can be found here:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/buses/pubs/research/lfbt/>