



26th Meeting of the Accessibility Consultative Committee (ACC)

Online via MS Teams at 11:00 hrs on 2nd March 2022

Attendance

Akriti Brady (Chair)	Dept. of Transport (DoT) - Public Transport Corporate and Services division (PTCSD)
Faye Carroll	DoT - PTCSD
Priscilla Wolf	DoT - PTCSD
Nigel Grogan	DoT - PTCSD
Dermot Murphy	DoT - PTCSD
Imelda Condon	DoT - Maritime Safety Policy division
Breda Farrell	DoT - EU and Central Policy division
Brendan Lennon	Chime
Deborah Maguire	Commission for Aviation Regulation (CAR)
Brendan O'Donnell	County and City Management Association (CCMA)
Annette Costello	Disability Stakeholders Group (DSG)
Elaine Howley	DSG
Julie Helen	Inclusion Ireland
Elaine Moore	Irish Senior Citizens Parliament
Joan Carthy	Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA)
Naomi Oldenburg	National Disability Authority (NDA)
Geraldine Browne	Road Safety Authority (RSA)
Sarah O'Donnell	Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)

Attending Presentations:

David O'Grady	DoT - Regional and Local Roads division
Ronan Murphy	Irish Rail - Head of Customer Experience
Joe Seymour	NTA - Head of Active Travel Investment

Apologies

Chantelle Smith	National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI)
Naomi Rooney	National Transport Authority (NTA)



1. Introductory remarks	
“Tour de Table” and Apologies	The Chair made apologies for Naomi Rooney and Chantelle Smith.
Minutes from previous meeting	Draft minutes from the previous meeting on 1 st December 2021, which were circulated on 7 February 2022 were agreed.
2. Presentation by NTA on Belisha Beacons at Zebra Crossings	
Key Points from presentation (Detailed actions in Appendix I)	<p>Joe Seymour, Head of Active Travel Investment, NTA, gave this presentation and he was supported by David O’Grady from the Regional and Local Roads division of DoT.</p> <p>NTA is discussing with DoT to possibly change the law to prioritise the right of a pedestrian who intends to cross the road, over rights of a driver or cyclist. (The UK has recently put this into its revised Rules of the Road.) At the moment a pedestrian only has the right of way once they are on the crossing. Several members welcomed this.</p> <p>Note that a driver currently has right of way at a courtesy crossing, which is not marked by Belisha Beacons. DSG suggested rights should be the same at every zebra crossing, and David O’Grady agreed on this.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is stricter driver liability being considered? For instance, in the Netherlands if a driver hits a more vulnerable road user they are seen as liable. David O’Grady: advised this is being considered and will report back.2. Is there evidence to suggest that cyclist and driver behaviour will be impacted by Belisha Beacons, as these are still uncontrolled crossings? This will be looked at in the trial: what percentage of each ignore the signage.3. DSG member – people with low vision generally do not like uncontrolled crossings. LED lights on ground are difficult. DSG member was asked if they have come across technology that will provide audio?4. DoT asked what kind of work does NTA and media need to do to inform drivers of their rights and responsibilities? This could link in with driver training.
3. Presentation by IE Accessibility Update March 2022	
Key points and questions from presentation (Detailed actions in Appendix I)	The customer App. being developed will allow passengers book assistance and should assist staff in managing assists.



	<p>The first Disability User Group meeting with the new independent Chair, Tony Ward, is scheduled for 24 March 2022.</p> <p>Neatebox works by reassuring passengers with disabilities, that staff know they are in the station. Live pilot commenced in Kent station, Cork on the 5th April.</p> <p>Navilens has tags on the trains (interior and exterior) which show people where the toilets are or how to phone about anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The New DART+ fleet (to be delivered by Alstom in 2026) will provide automatic access at 93% of stations. IE is looking at how to address the 7% of (Victorian era) stations where level access will not be available.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Will quieter carriages have audible announcements? This is being looked at.2. What is the gradient on the new fleet? IE to check this.3. Can people still phone or what is alternative contact when online systems do not work? IE agreed that this is important and yes customers can still book by phone.4. Getting out of order lifts back into active service can take a long time. Does IE provide transport by taxi when lifts are out of service? Yes. And at main stations there is a 4 hour turn around for lifts out of service.5. IE needs to communicate this turnaround and the provision of taxis. DoT to raise this with the NTA.6. Are there any statistics on audible announcements on DART? IE reported that these do not work on 40% of the DART Japanese fleet (8500). The €3 million retrofitting of audio and visual system on 8500 DART fleet has commenced and should be completed by end of 2022. DoT stated that audible announcements are a key part of the Comprehensive Employment Strategy being renewed now.7. SOS buttons sometimes do not work. IE agreed and stated that Ricardo Rail is doing a study of IE's Communications and will look at SOS buttons as part of review.
<p>4. Accessibility Work Programme (WP) Progress Report</p>	
	<p>The Work Programme for January and February 2022 was circulated to ACC members on 1 March 2022. (The vast majority of the Actions in the Work Programme, and in both the NDIS and the CES, are related to Public Transport and are assigned to the NTA.)</p>



<p>TII</p> <p>RSA</p>	<p>Discussion:</p> <p>TII reported that the non-statutory public consultation on the LUAS in Finglas is still open. Also, it is working on a series of podcasts on accessibility and would like feedback. These will be internal initially and will offer a way to give feedback to the design team. Action: TII to forward the series 'pitch' to the group.</p> <p>RSA reported that it relayed feedback from previous ACC meetings on e-scooters. Its Media and Education team will look at this feedback for its campaign on 'vulnerable road users'. A discussion followed on the use of this word 'vulnerable'. Action: NDA to forward guidance on consistent use of language, which is to be published soon. (The Ask ME Guidelines on consultation with people with disabilities need to be updated.)</p> <p>The RSA Vehicle Standards team is writing requirements which must be checked by the EU (takes at least 3 months). RSA member said she would circulate the presentation on Belisha Beacons internally, as the RSA would have valuable input.</p>
<p>5. Department updates (on 2nd March 2022)</p>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Internal: Garret Doocey was appointed as Assistant Secretary for Maritime Services and Caoimhin O’Ciaruain for Climate Change. Roads Assistant Secretary to be confirmed.2. DoT’s Disability Awareness and Support Network: was launched on 3 December 2021, to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Dermot Murphy presented an overview of the ACC and its role.3. PT Accessibility Retrofit Programme and Equality Budgeting Metrics: 2022 is the first year Departments must report at least one Equality Budgeting metric. DoT is using the Public Transport Accessibility Retrofit Programme. The allocation for this new subhead (B5.3) is €15.35m for 2022. (For its outputs and targets, see Work Programme theme 11 - Integration Measures.)4. Policy updates: PTCSD is now co-ordinating ‘Our Rural Future Rural Development Policy’ in DoT. This aligns with our responsibilities for public transport in rural areas and accessible public transport.



	<p>5. NDIS Action 104 Working Group Mobility and Transport: This was raised with Minister Anne Rabbitte by a member, at our December ACC. The first meeting of the reconstituted group was on 26 January 2022. It focused on the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme (Department of Finance). DoT believes there should be a public consultation on this scheme. (Note the working group’s remit relates to dedicated disability ‘closed’ services while DoT’s remit is ‘open’ public transport services.) DoT and NTA were present to share experiences of PT and assist Departments and Agencies who have responsibility for “closed” transport services, for instance the Mobility Allowance and Motorised Transport Schemes (Department of Health and HSE).</p> <p>6. New DoT language style guide: It is to ensure that all our documents have the same look and feel, for example on the fonts, preferred spellings and grammatical forms. It includes the use of Plain English and how to make documents more accessible so that everyone can read and understand them.</p> <p>7. E-Scooter legislation reached Committee Stage this week.</p>
6. AOB	
Date of next meeting and future meeting format	The date for the next meeting was agreed - 1 June 2022. This is one week earlier than required (2 weeks prior to NDIS meetings) due to a Bank Holiday. Action: DoT will arrange an online survey to check options for meetings (for instance, hybrid or online only).



Appendix I - Meeting Actions

a. Ongoing/longer term actions from previous ACC meetings

	Action	Responsible	Outcome
1	TII to advise ACC when MetroLink workshop taking place.	TII	Complete: MetroLink senior management gave a presentation on the Preliminary Design at the 9 th December User Group meeting. Pending: DPOs will also be invited to attend this presentation.
2	TII to update on the assistance available to drivers who cannot reach the 'help' button for assistance, since a lot of the tolls are unmanned, and if there is a difficulty with getting through.	TII	Ongoing: TII is committed to work with operators on this and will tie it in with the Disability Toll Exemption Scheme. 2 nd March update: TII wants a standardised system.
3	BÉ's new policy on motorised scooters and motorised wheelchairs: Circulate BÉ's new policy when finalised.	Bus Éireann	Pending. BÉ update awaited.
4	Connolly Station/Busárus/Luas: Undertake high level review to identify possible solutions to address problems in the vicinity of Connolly Station/ Busárus/Luas. TII and NTA to discuss setting up of a multi-agency interchange group.	NTA and TII and DoT	Pending. At 2 nd March meeting, TII reported that it had proposed a number of small actions which might help, NTA is looking at big picture.
5	DoT Annual Report 2019 to be published	Secretariat	Pending.
6	Customer Service Officers (CSOs: Get information about advance notice needed on Intercity routes.)	NTA	Pending. The CSOs stay on the fleet so it is not possible yet to facilitate travel without prior notice. NTA to have further talks with IE on this and will revert.
7	Circulate recent research relating to collisions on footpaths and e-scooters.	NCBI	Pending.

b. New Actions agreed at meeting



	<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
1	Look into technology (other than Bluetooth) which would provide audio at the Belisha poles.	DSG	
2	Investigate discussions on legislation for stricter driver liability.	Regional and Local Roads division, DoT	
3	Clarify legislation around priority given to road users.	Regional and Local Roads division, DoT	
4	Check gradient on new fleet.	Irish Rail	
5	Share User Group reports (including revised Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct) with ACC (CAR request)	Irish Rail	
6	Investigate communicating the provision of taxis when lifts are out of order, and the 4-hour turnaround for lifts in main stations.	DoT and NTA	
7	Supply information about its accessibility podcast series – for feedback.	TII and Secretariat	
8	Supply guidance on consistent use of language for circulation.	NDA and Secretariat	Completed: draft circulated on 6 th April.
9	Circulate the presentation on Belisha Beacons internally	RSA	
10	Online survey to check preferred format of future meetings	Secretariat	
11	Raise with the NTA if shared signage could be developed at Busarus and the discussion moved on. (See Action 4 in Section a.)	DoT	