

AUNT-SUE

Accessibility and
User Needs in
Transport for
Sustainable Urban
Environments



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Newsletter Edition May 2008, Issue 6

You are reading the AUNT-SUE newsletter. It contains updates on our research project, the aim of which is to develop and test sustainable policies and practices that will deliver effective socially inclusive design and operation in transport and the associated public realm.

Inclusive Transport and Urban Design - DESIGNING OUT BARRIERS AND 'FEAR' FACTORS Exhibition and Talk at London Architecture Festival on 3rd July

AUNT-SUE invites you to an animated exhibition of their tools for practitioners wanting to reduce exclusion in transport and public spaces. The exhibition is part of the London Festival of Architecture (www.lfa2008.org).

Progress is being made towards a more accessible and inclusive transport system for London. However, poor design and other shortcomings in related public spaces still deter many - especially the poorest and most vulnerable - from reaching the people and places they want to visit.

This event will showcase techniques that are being piloted by 'AUNT-SUE': a research project to help practitioners empathise more easily with the complex and sometimes conflicting requirements of a diverse and ageing society.

Legislation and better mobility awareness is encouraging improved accessibility to public transport. However, it is not simply a question of waiting for old infrastructure and vehicles to be replaced piecemeal. AUNT-SUE's representation of the bigger picture reveals a range of psychological as well as physical barriers, lack of confidence and anxieties over personal security - problems to which solutions must be found through creative collaborations between professionals and between operators responsible for different links in the journey chain.

AUNT-SUE's 2D and 3D digital representations are being developed to help architects and other practitioners visualise

the 'bigger picture' of whole journey environments from the micro-scale of facilities such as entrances/exits, barriers, ticketing and information, through to street-scapes, bus/tram stops and interchanges, up to the larger scale of neighbourhoods, districts and urban centres. These animated 'visualisations' of areas such as Somerstown/King's Cross are designed to help practitioners pinpoint problems in the door-to-door journey chain, compare alternative solutions, and assess their benefits for particular groups. The research team will demonstrate the techniques and will be pleased to discuss the scope to apply them more widely.

Venue:
Building Design Centre
New London Architecture -
Ground Floor Cafe
26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT

Nearest Tube:
Goodge Street

Date/Time:
3rd July 2008, 2.00—6.00 pm

Programme:
2.00 - 6.00 pm
'Get to know AUNT-SUE'
Exhibition/ Drop-in Session

5.00 - 5.30 pm
Reception/ Talk "Designing out Barriers"
Speaker: Graeme Evans, London Met

**Please contact Antje Witting
(a.witting@londonmet.ac.uk) for details.**

EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council





Picture of Greenwich Station (Guillaume Coron, April 08)

Younger Practitioners: Update

Many thanks to those who've already expressed interest. Our first activity relates to the new VISIT project [below].

With support from gap-year intern Laxmeesh Rao (TRaC LondonMet), we're compiling a handbook of good practice improvement schemes - from simple bus/tram stops to complex multi-modal interchanges - where key benefits focus on accessibility and inclusion. We'd be very pleased to hear from you if you would like to participate and discuss a scheme with which you are familiar: upgrade or new-build, completed or work-in-progress.

Contact: Steve Shaw (s.shaw@londonmet.ac.uk)

Introducing 'VISIT': VISUALISING SAFE & INCLUSIVE TRANSPORT ENVIRONMENTS

In principle, the entry points to urban transport should be welcoming gateways, accessible to everyone. In reality, many are not. So, where opportunities arise to upgrade and re-build, we must get it right.

VISIT will address this challenge through live-schemes, initially station upgrades on Docklands Light Railway (see for example picture above). Here, we're combining our techniques to visualise the 'bigger picture' and investigate how design affects users of different ages, abilities and confidence. Likewise the 'smaller picture', so new facilities, e.g. ticket machines and lifts, don't design-out the very people who should benefit.

Contact: Steve Shaw (s.shaw@londonmet.ac.uk)

Forthcoming: AUNT-SUE Short-Video

This video provided a perfect introduction to the theme of inclusive transport and related public realm, but also demonstrates key elements of the AUNT-SUE tool-kit.

The video was designed to engage a professional and public audience, in both exhibition and conference presentation settings. A preview is planned for the aforementioned (see page 1) exhibition on the 3rd of July. AUNT-SUE Network members can apply for a free copy.

Contact: Antje Witting (a.witting@londonmet.ac.uk)

Map-Walk Findings

Delegates to this year's AUNT-SUE conference contributed a wealth of expertise to 'Map-walks' through the disadvantaged neighbourhood of Somerstown, and to Euston.

Participants identified points for action relating to accessibility, personal security, legibility and pedestrian safety. Their 'speech-bubble' comments with photos have been digitised on annotated GIS-maps; in June, Somerstown residents will be contributing their valuable local insights through further Map-walks. Residents' and delegates' observations and views will then be discussed with LB Camden officers, and demonstrated on 3rd July (see p 1). Contact: Antje Witting (a.witting@londonmet.ac.uk)

Conferences & Papers

Mackett R L (2008) Using transport to increase social inclusion, Presentation to the London TravelWatch Accessibility Committee, London, 5 Mar 08.

Mackett R L, Achuthan K and Titheridge H (2008) Reducing social exclusion by removing the barriers to everyday physical activity, Presentation at the 2nd International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health, Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 13-16 Apr 08.

Titheridge H., Solomon J. (2008) Social Exclusion, Accessibility and Lone Parents. Paper presented at the UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference, Belfast, 18th-20th Mar 08.

Ellul C., Calnan B. (2008) Modelling Street Safety in an Urban Environment. Paper presented at GISRUUK 2008-Geographical Information Science Research Conference, Manchester, Apr 08.

Forthcoming publications

Mackett R L, Achuthan K and Titheridge H (2008) AMELIA: Making streets more accessible for people with mobility difficulties, Urban Design International.

Mackett R L, Achuthan K and Titheridge H (2008) 'Costing increases in walking accessibility for people who socially excluded', Paper at the 9th International Conference for Walking, to be held in Barcelona, 8-10 Oct 08.

Ellul C., Calnan B. (2008) 'Modelling Street Safety' Paper to be presented at: the Royal Geographical Society, International Annual Conference London, 27-29 Aug 08

Davis, P.M., Case, K., Porter, J.M., Marshall, R., Gyi, D.E., Sims, R.E. and Summerskill, S.J. (2008) The Psychological Stress Perspective: A unifying view of accessibility in public transport and beyond. Nordic Ergonomic Society Conference, Reykjavik, Iceland. 11-13th Aug 08

Further details about recent or forthcoming conference presentations and papers are to follow on aunt-sue.info