OFFICE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION – NAP/INCLUSION PROCESS – JUNE 2005 REPORT TO EU

Report for Department of Transport

OBJECTIVE: To increase the participation of people with disabilities in work and society generally and to support people with a disability and their families to lead full and independent lives and to ensure access to adequate services and infrastructure for rural dwellers.

Target	To improve transport services to rural dwellers through a combination of State support and community-based provision.
Summary Assessment[1]	**In Progress**
Will Target be met on time[2]	**Likely**
Indicator (s)	- Number of rural transport groups being funded. - Numbers using the service. - Levels of funding.
Progress being made	The Rural Transport Initiative (RTI) has been operating on a pilot basis since 2002 – managed for D. Transport by ADM. Thirty four rural transport groups are being funded under RTI. Some 65,000 RTI transport services were provided in 2004 and over 500,000 passenger trips were recorded on these services. The Free Travel Scheme was extended to the RTI in July 2003 by DSFA. In line with the principal recommendation of an appraisal of the RTI in 2004, the Minister for Transport announced the extension of the RTI to end 2006 and has since announced his intention to put the initiative on a permanent footing from 2007. D. Transport provided €3m for the RTI in each of the years 2002, 2003 and 2004. The 2005 RTI funding allocation is €4.5m and the Minister has indicated his intention to allocate funding of the order of €5m for the RTI in 2006.
Areas where intended implementation	While the National Development Plan provided €4.4 million for the RTI, the actual overall funding commitment for the RTI to end 2006 is some €18m.

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[1] Summary assessment of progress (taken from Implementation Criteria used in EU Joint Employment Report, with addition of new 'unknown' category):
"Complete" where the reform process is (practically) complete and the desired results have (practically) been achieved;
"In progress" where the policy reform is well advanced and progress in implementation is being made;
"Limited" where the policy response to the recommendation is only partial and implementation is limited;
"Insufficient" where no substantial policy measures going in the right direction have been taken;
"Unknown" where there is insufficient information/data available to assess what progress has been made.
[2] Yes/No/Likely/Unlikely/Unknown/Not time bound

not being achieved	
Data sources used to monitor progress	The project groups report to ADM on a monthly basis and ADM updates D. Transport on a regular basis. ADM also produce newsletters which are published on the ADM website (www.adm.ie).
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	**As above**

Commitment	A transport action plan is being prepared to provide for the further development and implementation of accessible transport services for people with disabilities
Summary Assessment	**In Progress**
Will Target be met on time	**Likely**
Indicator (s)	- Levels of accessibility based on D/Transport accessibility audit. - Percentages of trains and buses that are accessible.
Progress being made	From 2000 all major refurbishment projects at bus and rail stations, together with the construction of new stations and the purchase of new trains or buses take account of the needs of people with mobility and sensory impairments. Since 2000 all new buses purchased for the urban services of BusEireann and Dublin Bus are low floor and wheelchair accessible. Similarly in the rail sector all new carriages are specified to full accessibility standards. The LUAS has been designed and is operating as a fully accessible service. *Outline Sectoral Plan for Accessible Public Transport* In conjunction with the publication of the Disability Bill 2004 on 21 September 2004, six Government Departments, including the Department of Transport, published Outline Plans for the development of services for people with disabilities in their sectors. The plans set out a programme for action in key service areas including health, the environment, social welfare, training, employment and transport. The Department of Transport's Plan is a draft consultation document, which outlines the proposals of the Minister in relation to the ongoing development of accessible public transport services for people with mobility and sensory impairments. The Plan covers public transport accessibility issues relating to bus and rail public transport, taxi services and airport facilities. The National Disability Authority, together with the Government Departments concerned (Transport, Health & Children, Social & Family Affairs, Environment Health & Local Government, Communications Marine & Natural Resources and Enterprise Trade & Employment), have commenced a series of regional meetings on the Plans. The purpose of these meetings is to publicise the contents of the Plans and to seek an informed debate and discussion on the proposals therein.
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	

Data sources used to monitor progress	
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	The completed accessibility audit of all railway stations, commissioned by Iarnród Éireann in 2003, provides a comprehensive assessment of the works that have to be carried out at each station to make it fully accessible to people with mobility and sensory impairments. A programme of station investment is being developed based on the findings of this audit. In particular, preparatory work has commenced for a railway station refurbishment programme on the Dublin-Cork route which will complement the arrival of new accessible rolling stock on this route later this year.
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	