BUS STOP POLE

Information Note

Under the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008, the NTA is responsible for the development, and implementation of, a single public transport brand. This brand is known as Transport for Ireland (TFI) and its function is to promote and coordinate the provision of public transport in Ireland while also functioning as a "one stop shop" for the provision of clear, consistent and accessible public transport information.

The NTA undertook to review existing bus stop pole information to determine what changes or improvement may be needed to provide clear, consistent and accessible information for all users.

This note provides details on the outcome of this review, what changes were made and what the final TFI bus stop pole design, being deployed nationwide, looks like.

September 2020





01

EXISTING BUS STOP POLE INFORMATION

Bus stop information in Ireland has been provided at stops by individual transport operators to date. This information varies in look, materials, colour, font size, consistency of information displayed and accessibility. The information available lacks consistency across operators making it difficult for users to understand and interpret the information. Out of approximately 12,000 stops nationwide there is a physical sign present at less than 6000 stops.

In addition to the inconsistency in which bus stop information is presented, there are significant issues with regards the clarity and accessibility of information provided and in the durability of existing mild steel poles.

A final issue idenified with existing information is that currently each operator maintains their own pole information often leading to the presence of multiple poles at the same location. This results in a reduction in footpath space and visual clutter.

















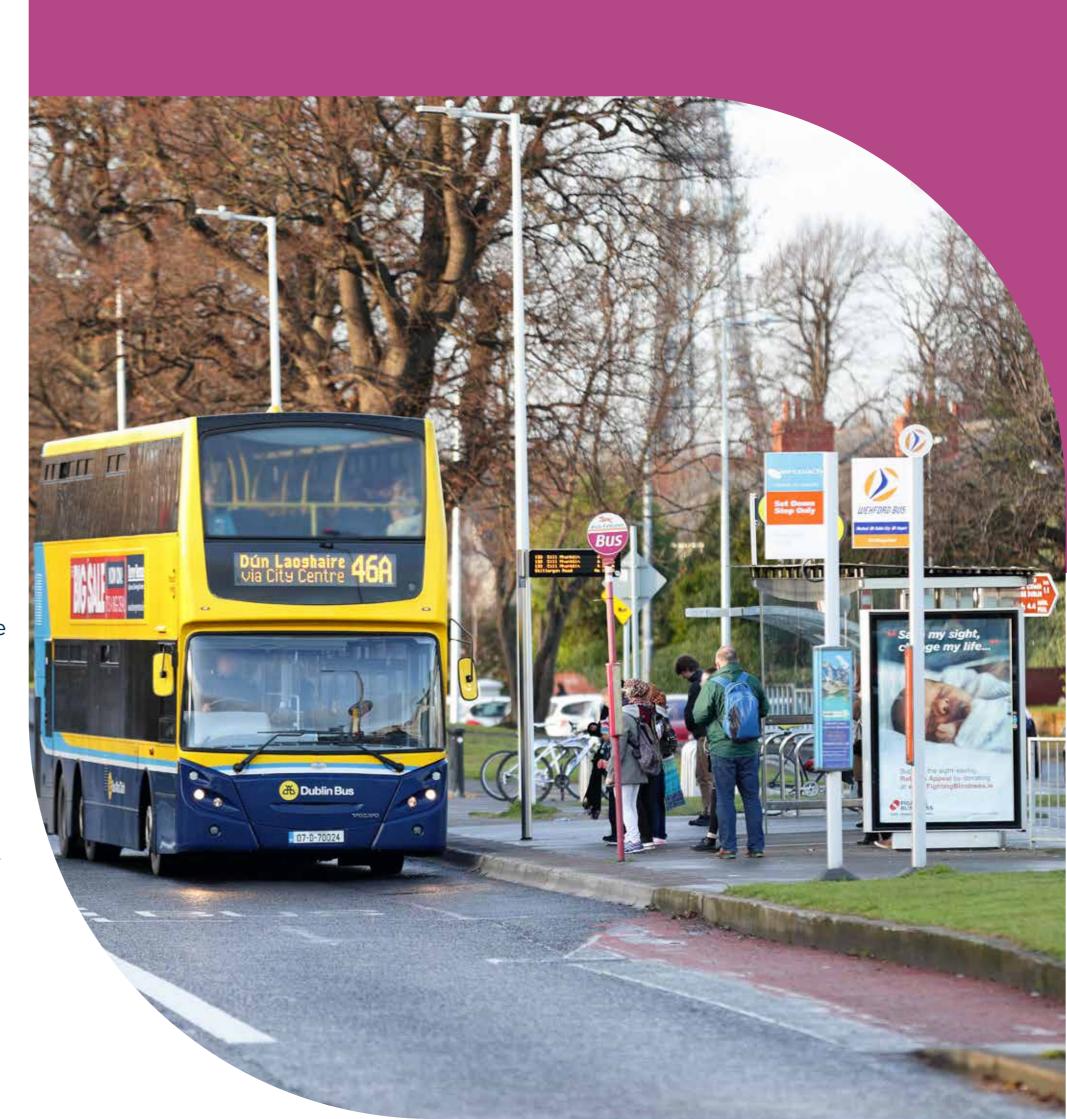


02CHANGES REQUIRED

Given the issues identified with existing bus stop poles, the NTA undertook to develop a new design which addresses issues around clarity, consistency, accessibility and durability of information.

In order to provide clarity and consistency of information, the bus stop pole design, and information displayed, is required to be similar nationwide regardless of operator. The design should also address accessibility by ensuring key stop information, such as the stop number, is accessible to a wide range of users.

In order to ensure the information provided remains clear and accessible, the new design must also be durable to ensure the infrastructure provided does not degrade over time in the roadside environment. The design should also minimise the need for ongoing maintenance.



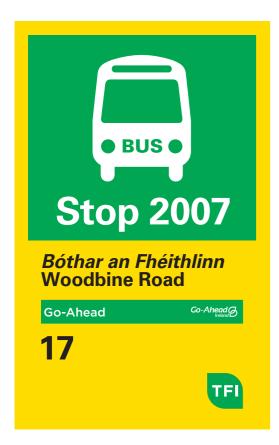
03FINAL DESIGN

As a result of this review a standard TFI bus stop pole has been developed for use nationwide. As part of the design process for this pole, the NTA engaged with representatives of visually impaired users to gather feedback.

Following this engagement a number of changes were made to improve both the layout and colour scheme of the final design. The new design, and rationale behind it, is outlined here.

New Flag Design

The design allows for both operators and routes serving the stop to be clearly displayed on the flag. This design removes the need for multiple poles thereby minimising impact on footpath space. The colours, font type and font sizes consider the needs of the visually impaired and general visibility in low light conditions.



New yellow timetable information displays

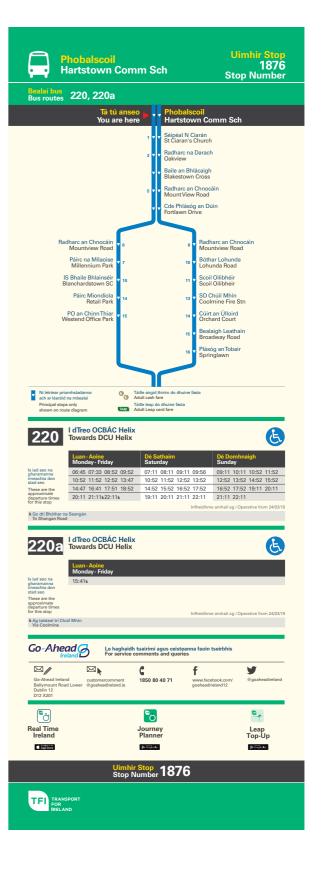
The timetable and route information displays are in a physical carousel unit, similar to that used currently at Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann stops, however, the colour is changed to yellow to improve the visibility of the stopping point.

New timetable and route information design

The information sheets contained in the carousel are designed to maximise the accessibility of the information provided. The carousel can also accommodate a braille plate identifying the bus stop number. The layout of the text on this display, along with the font and text sizes are designed to improve how a user can read and interpret the information being presented while meeting requirements associated with the Irish Language Act. The bus stop number is duplicated at the top and bottom of the carousel in order to maximise the eye range which this key piece of information is available to. The background colour on the information sheets is off-white in order to reduce glare. In addition, stop specific route diagrams are being incorporated where possible to help users better understand the bus routes available to them. The printed material is designed to be both UV and water resistant which will mean the information displayed won't weather in the way seen to date at stops nationwide.

Stainless Steel material

In order to address durability issues associated with the current mild steel poles the new pole is stainless steel. This material is will help ensure the new infrastructure can withstand variable weather conditions and road de-icing salts.



04

INFORMATION ROLL OUT

The NTA intend to roll out the installation of the new TFI poles at bus stops nationwide. Initially the design is being rolled out at all stops served by PSO (Public Service Obligation) bus routes and shared stops, and in time will also be used at all non PSO bus route stops. This will provide consistency for bus passengers irrespective of where they are in the country or which operator they chose to use.

It should also be noted that the new bright colour scheme present on the new TFI bus stop pole will also start to appear on future publicly funded buses within the form of the new TFI bus livery.

