

A BARRIER - FREE TRANSIT SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

The growing number of an ageing population with healthy lifestyle, independent living and higher mobility aspirations have prompted Land Transport Authority (LTA), Singapore to have a barrier free transit system. In the future, all transit stations will have facilities and be accessible not only to groups of the elderly, or disabled user groups but will benefit all commuters. The North East Line (NEL) sets a first trend in Singapore's public transport system. In that system, stations are accessible to all commuters, including the mobility impaired and wheel chair users. The NEL stations are fitted with lifts, ramps, wide automatic fare gates and a tactile guidance system for commuters with different disabilities to use the stations with confidence. It is planned to extend these user-friendly facilities to all of the existing MRT system. LTA has also embarked on a staged programme accessible to all commuters of all abilities on completion of this retrofitting programme. This paper presents the design considerations and illustrates the facilities included in the stations to assist commuters with disabilities using the railway system as their means of transport.