

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Title	Mobility scooter dimensions for boarding buses
Objective	Definition of which mobility scooter models can fit into the majority of buses
Date	November 2009
Methodology	Desk research into the dimensions of smaller scooters; trials with 12 scooters of boarding and alighting the standard wheel-based Alexander bus

Key findings

- The previous research project Mobility Scooters on Buses identified that the standard wheel-based Alexander bus is the model with the most restrictive wheelchair space as the wheelchair bay is on the same side as the rear doors. This desk research identified 12 scooter models that could potentially fit onto this bus model
- The fitting trial shows that the complex interaction between length, width, turning circle, physical form, handle bar width and action (i.e. where the handles swing out widely) and control issues determines whether mobility scooters fit
- NB the previous research highlighted that scooter users' ability to enter a bus was highly varied as individuals range greatly in confidence and capability. Furthermore, scooter users were well aware of, and realistic about, what they could achieve and would thus tend to avoid attempting activities and manoeuvres that they felt were beyond their capabilities
- To fit onto this bus model, mobility scooters need to have maximum dimensions of length 1072mm, width 544mm and turn circle of 2264mm. Although there are likely to be some mobility scooter models that meet these requirements but which still do not fit the bus for reasons such as their handlebars swinging out or an awkward physical shape
- The best way for a mobility scooter to access the bus is to turn to the right hand side first before reversing into the wheelchair space. The full report gives details of the two different ways this can be done
- The following mobility scooter models fit using this method - Ultralite 480, Pride Libre, Cameo 4 (though can get stuck between the seats in Method unless a suitable approach angle is), GoGo 3 (although it does not stop immediately when power is taken off), GoGo 4 and Ultralite 355 XL

Job number: 09010