Transit Shelters Get Smarter with AVL

Public transit systems are fast embracing GPS and AVL technology to make their systems operate more efficiently at less cost. One reason is the increase of riders due to the availability of real-time information on when the next bus or rail is coming to a particular transit stop. Daytech has incorporated this technology into transit shelters!

Public transit systems across North America are eagerly using Global Positioning System (PRWEB) January 10, 2002 -time transit information - not jsut schedules - to passengers and managers. The reason behind the adaptation of this technology is that it just makes good business sense. Transit systems having GPS and real-time bus and rail arrival times report having an increase in ridership and hence revenue. Add to this the dropping cost of the technology and you have a clear winner.

Daytech Mfg., a leading manufacturer of transit shelters in North America, has been listening to the needs of their customers - transit authorities. The result is their new Smart ShelterÂ® - loaded with easy-to-use patented technology to benefit both the transit rider and transit authority. And they've gone a step further than just providing real-time arrivals to transit riders. Their new Smarter Shelters also provide security features (see list of features at end of article).

"The features in our Smart ShelterÂ® address the safety and security of the people in the shelters as well as provide customer service such as telling them in minutes and seconds when the approaching bus will arrive," said Pat Amlinger, president of Daytech. "We've been field testing our AVL technology for the past several months and are extremely pleased with its reliable operation."

Mr. Amlinger went on to say that initial discussions with several transit agencies have been very positive. "Transit personnel are impressed with what this Smart ShelterÂ® offers. They can see its value to their transit operation in terms of reducing vandalism costs and increasing revenue by attracting more riders."

"The Smart ShelterÂ® technology is just what we need," claims Charlie Stolte, transit manager for Saskatoon Transit. "The fact that we can select which features to put in which shelter means we can tailor the technology to maximize the benefits to our operation. For example, we see putting security cameras in high vandalism areas and AVL at our heavy transfer points. Providing real-time passenger information can only increase our ridership."

Transit agencies are beginning to take advantage of AVL capabilities to provide significantly more reliable service and to provide accurate information to the transit rider. Janet Bradshaw, general manager of St. John's Transportation Commission in Newfoundland had this to say about AVL technology: "The cost of AVL systems has been steadily dropping, making it more affordable. It's something we're definitely interested in implementing."

Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) is a technology used for tracking and locating moveable assets. For transit systems its main uses include telling riders (in real time) when the next bus will arrive at their location, and telling transit operators of any emergencies so they can re-route buses and to more closely manage service to preserve headways and reduce bus bunching.

Daytech Manufacturing Limited has been serving the public transit industry for almost 100 years with their

signage and shelter products. Daytech holds patents on their Smart ShelterÂ® technology as well as other products. They have offices in Canada and the US.

Smart ShelterÂ® Features

Security Related
1. Emergency button (in case of danger/emergency, passenger presses button and security/surveillance camera is activated to gauge if situation is real or a prank)
2. Vibration/impact sensor (in case of vandalism, camera is activated by the vibration to gauge the situation)
3. Surveillance inside shelter (camera can be activated by a monitoring station to determine situation inside the shelter)
4. Surveillance outside shelter (camera can be activated by a monitoring station to determine situation up/down the street)
5. Voice communication (monitoring station can listen and speak to shelter occupants)

Customer Service Related
1. Occupancy flashing beacon (alerts the approaching bus that a passenger is waiting inside the shelter, most beneficial in inclement weather when glass can be fogged by condensation, snow, ice, etc.)
2. Occupancy dimmer (low light level when unoccupied, high light level when occupied; saves energy)
3. Outside flashing beacon (speed of beacon indicates to approaching passengers the distance of the next bus; faster speed = closer)
4. Schedule and special notices/changes display (monitor displays the schedule for that day plus any special changes)
5. Audio annunciation (voice tells passengers the estimated minutes and seconds in which the bus will arrive at that shelter, also tells of any special changes/ bulletin information)
6. Map of approaching bus (graphic display on the monitor of where the bus is on the route)

# # #

Contact Information
Pat Amlinger
Daytech Mfg. Ltd.
http://daytechmfg.com
416-675-1195 ext 232

Online Web 2.0 Version
You can read the online version of this press release here.