

Social Distancing: New Tools for Managing Bus Passenger Load

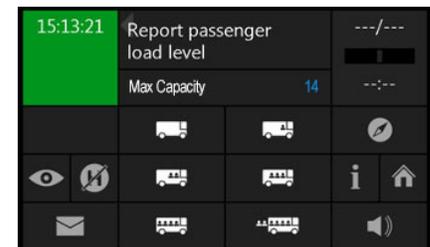
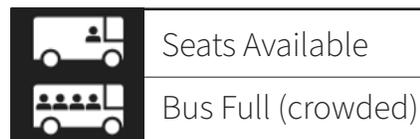
In order to ensure passenger and driver safety, and consistent observance of social distancing rules, vehicles will be required to operate with reduced passenger loads. Effective utilisation of vehicle load information will ensure that everyone stays safe, and provide passengers with information to begin restoring confidence in public transport.

Obtaining Vehicle Load Information

Where an Automated Passenger Counting (APC) system is present, passenger load information is queried by the on-board computer (ITT/IDR). Because the computer knows the maximum passenger capacity it can calculate the present load level and display it to the driver.

Additionally, the maximum number of passengers can be configured via LIO-Data, and can therefore be increased over time in line with any relaxing of social distancing requirements.

Where an APC system is NOT present, or sensors are defective, the driver is able to manually enter the load level. For fleets with only partly equipped APC systems, the APC has priority, but drivers can manually update the load level. Drivers are prompted to enter the load level via a pop-up message, and 'bus full' messages are automatically cleared following a stop request or when doors are opened.



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Communicating Load Information

Live load information – for example, “seats available” or “bus full” – can be communicated via SIRI or GTFS, and thereby accessible via downstream applications such as mobile apps.

Optionally, current load level (bus full or not yet full) can be communicated via the vehicle’s LED display, alternating with existing information:



On request, this information may also be communicated via stationary displays:



On-board automatic audio announcements can remind passengers of the importance of observing COVID-19 social distancing rules

APC data is reported to the LIO central system, enabling LIO Database reports to be used for the planning of phasing out.

Key Information



Benefits

- Reinforce observance of social distancing to ensure safety of passengers and drivers
- Restore public faith in public transport



Prerequisites

- On-board computer IDR or ITT with Release 2020-Q2
- Starting with LIO Release 18-Q2



Restrictions

- Displays must support the required protocols and be controlled by the Trapeze On-board computer
- Information displayed cannot predict the number of passengers who will alight at each stop. Therefore, a bus may be “full” as it approaches a stop, but have capacity when it arrives, once sufficient passengers have alighted
- Accuracy of the counters is vital, but this is not Trapeze’s area of responsibility

Trapeze’s new tools for managing bus passenger load are available to order now.

Please call/email your regular Trapeze contact.