LOCXid

APP-BASED ACCESSIBILITY

The development

In recent years, a large number of developers have been working in various research and development projects to improve the mobility of blind and severely visually impaired people through the use of different apps. In the meantime, there are apps from various providers for the areas of public transport, indoor and outdoor navigation, traffic lights, elevators, construction sites and e-scooters. All these apps support the mobility of their users - the people affected by blindness and visual impairment - very well. But how does that person know which app is available to them right now? Or which app is needed when buses are just approaching? Or whether the city hall door is aligned with it? In this context, the free LOC.id app acts as a search app that - once installed on the user's smartphone - searches for the various LOC.id-compatible apps and either opens them directly or provides a recommendation for installation.

Based on Bluetooth technology, LOC.id offers further functionalities. In the meantime, a network of a wide variety of companies has joined forces to make their devices LOC.id-capable via the correspondingly accessible interfaces. This has already resulted in numerous fields of application:

LOC.id-enabled acoustics at traffic lights make the orientation signals louder as soon as a user with the app installed on the smartphone approaches. Demand-based green phase extension is another option by activating the add-on version of the app.

LOC.id-capable construction site systems (beacons) acoustically indicate the way through the construction site bypass by emitting two temporally staggered acoustic signals of different timing at the entrance of the bypass, which are clearly different from usual ambient sounds.


LOC.id-capable e-scooters that are not in operation emit a warning signal when approaching. The signal varies in volume and timing depending on the distance to the user and differs significantly from usual signals in road traffic. This function is the add-on version with required activation to ensure demand-based use. So far, about 25,000 e-scooters of the company Bolt are equipped with this technology.

LOC.id-capable location points report when approached and provide acoustic voice instructions on the respective situation on site, e.g. in front of entrances to buildings or along roads.

LOC.id-enabled indoor navigation guides users directly to the desired destination and makes buildings and facilities, such as for example elevators, „speak". This makes routes and accesses much easier, especially in large public buildings.
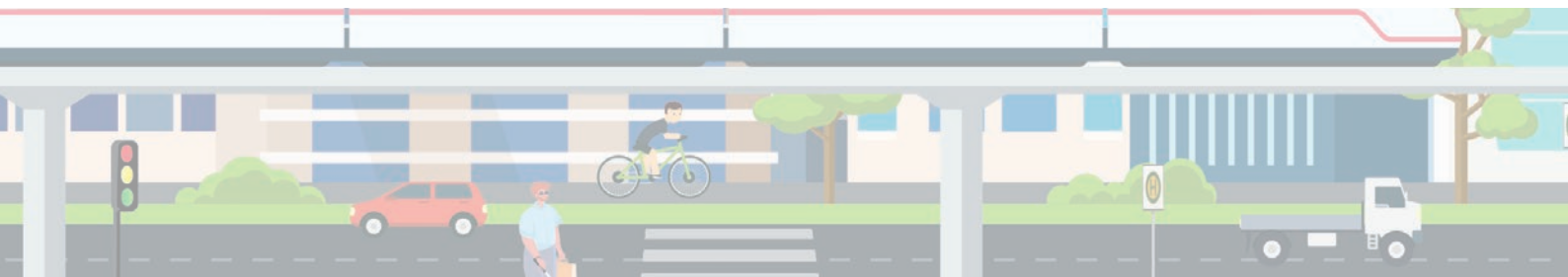
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LOC.id-enabled outdoor navigation using LOC.id Rock, a „talking" stone that can be installed at ground level together with the associated solar power supply. It is an audible signal transmitter that makes it easier to locate specific points, e.g. building entrances or bus stops. It is suitable for use wherever an unobtrusive, well-protected and secure installation is required.

LOC.id-capable passenger information in local public transport provides up-to-date information about the departure and arrival times of the respective means of transport. In addition, LOC.id can also be installed on the vehicles themselves, so that they also provide acoustic information about the direction of travel, destination and position of the doors

Important is...

... that the LOC.id technology is designed so that the app works even when the smartphone is locked and operating in energy-optimized standby mode. Users can carry their smartphone in a jacket pocket, pants pocket or on a strap. Thus, the use of this technology does not distract users from the essential action on the road. However, the use of a smartphone case can reduce the Bluetooth range.

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LOC id

The network

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LOCXid