May 25, 2009

The world’s coolest bus stop

Feast your eyes on this: a new interactive bus stop designed for the city of Florence.

Unveiled earlier this month and designed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology architects and engineers working with city officials and transport experts, the EyeStop is a thing of beauty.

The EyeStop is partially covered with touch-sensitive e-INK and screens, and features state-of-the art sensing technologies and a variety of interactive services. Riders can plan a bus trip on an interactive map, surf the web, monitor their real-time exposure to pollutants and use their mobile devices as an interface with the bus shelter.

It will tell you exactly where the next bus is and the EyeStop will glow at different levels of intensity to signal the distance of an approaching bus.

“The EyeStop could change the whole experience of urban travel,” said Carlo Ratti, Head of the SENSEable City Lab at MIT. “At the touch of a finger, passengers can get the shortest bus route to their destination or the position of all the buses in the city.”

In addition to displaying information, the bus stop also acts as an active environmental sensing node, powering itself through sunlight and collecting real-time information about the surrounding environment.

The shelters will be made of glass, steel and local stone. A more formal prototype will be rolled out in October.

There’s no word on how vandalism proof it is - perhaps they don’t have that sort of problem in Florence.

Here’s some more pictures.
WOW, this will change the way we wait for the bus. But do we all need all this mass information? It will just be a greater platform to bombard us with consumer advertising etc.

Plus how are they going to prevent vandalism?

Posted by: jeremiah selengia | May 25, 2009 8:06:09 AM

That looks really, really nice but it's a shame that it will most likely be vandalised.

Posted by: Jack | May 25, 2009 10:45:01 AM

Irrelevant fact:

In punjabi, bus means stop

Posted by: Neel | May 26, 2009 4:40:52 PM

I'm trying to visualise it with graffiti all over it, smashed glass and chewing gum stuck to the touch screens.

Posted by: Pete | May 26, 2009 4:41:54 PM

Missing amongst the technical innovations listed, is information detailing when the next bus will ACTUALLY be arriving!

Posted by: Scott | May 26, 2009 4:48:33 PM

It will be made of glass?

I'm sure it will look nice when it receives a brick through it at nightclub closing time. I'm sure these will cost 10x the price of current bus stops but will last half as long due to the brick magnet problem...

Posted by: Andrew | May 26, 2009 4:58:34 PM

Won't last ten minutes in Scotland

Posted by: Liam | May 26, 2009 5:14:47 PM

This would last 5 minutes in most major cities

Posted by: Ciaran | May 26, 2009 5:23:26 PM

OK but: it doesn't protect people from the elements (not MIT's fault, that's in the requirements so why isn't it a requirement?), the bus times have to be accurate as opposed to now in London where the arrival times have no relation to reality, and of course it will be vandalised in London within seconds.

Perhaps instead the Eyestop could be our solution to crime in London? Implement three strikes and you're out, jail the vandals using Eyestop as a legal honeytrap and watch while the vermin are wiped off our street.

Posted by: James | May 26, 2009 5:38:46 PM

So pretty and yet so useless. No doubt money will poured into nonsense like this rather than actually providing a decent service. All we need is a bench, a shelter made of something indestructable and a (very) regular bus service. We don't need LCD screens in windy shelter that will shatter on day 1. Even the ultra simple "time to
arrival” signs in central london today already don't work.

Posted by: benny | May 26, 2009 6:11:46 PM

Neel, actually ‘bus’ in Punjabi means énough’.

Posted by: Kam | May 26, 2009 6:15:18 PM

In reply to Liam: Yes it would! In Edinburgh we have bus tracker screens and solar-powered ticket machines around our bus stops here already. I can't remember ever having seen one vandalised - and I live in Leith!

Posted by: Hel | May 26, 2009 6:40:07 PM

Looks just like the Holodeck Arch from "Star Trek: The Next Generation"...

Posted by: Paul | May 26, 2009 7:10:30 PM

What fun the yobs would have defacing and destroying these. Sadly, NuBritain is trapped in the past by the feral gangs we've bred.

Posted by: Robert | May 26, 2009 7:14:07 PM

This sort of thing will only work in Arabia where they'll cut of your hand if caught throwing a brick or vandalism, hence zero crime.

Posted by: Jayill | May 26, 2009 7:35:09 PM

yeah you wouldn't be able to put that bus stop up anywhere in england. would be smashed to pieces within a week.

Posted by: ceris | May 26, 2009 7:53:11 PM

Abroad there is not as much rampant vandalism as there is in the UK.

I am guessing these are going into the tourist areas. They look lovely and are definitely a great touch to spruce up a City.

Suprised at how dismaly bitter some of the comments are here. Makes you sad really.

Posted by: Alex | May 26, 2009 8:08:14 PM

My hours of fun while reading the online information etc whilst urinating up against it....

Posted by: martinihenry | May 26, 2009 8:09:35 PM

Remember the KISS rule: Keep It Simple, Stupid. The greater the complexity, the greater the chance of malfunction. I agree with other posters, that this is a no go.

Posted by: Bruce | May 26, 2009 8:27:04 PM

One that senses it's being vandalised and fries the vandals with a 10,000 volt shock would be a useful innovation.

Posted by: Robert NW6 | May 26, 2009 9:09:54 PM

could we not just buy more buses;

with nicer drivers

maybe some posters maybe for the following;

to inform people to use a hanky before they snivel in my ear and suck their own snot down there own throats.

Or not scream into there mobile phones for a period not likely to be less than one hour (in a language I dont understand )

or cuss the inspector when he has the temerity to ask them for a ticket

Or show me the contents of there mouths whilst eating a pack of Walkers Cheese and Onion crisps.

I'd take that over any bus-stop.

Posted by: rob | May 26, 2009 10:15:07 PM

All this technical innovation is a solution to a problem no one is experiencing. The money would surely be better spent fixing Turin's notorious traffic light sequencing problems.

Posted by: Stephen Gray | May 26, 2009 10:27:24 PM

Pete, the bus stop is in Florence, not in Liverpool!

Posted by: George Andersen | May 26, 2009 11:21:14 PM

I thought they meant Florence, Mississippi.

Posted by: doo | May 26, 2009 11:46:16 PM

lol, prefer my car tibs

Posted by: Mike | May 26, 2009 11:57:00 PM

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