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BUSES AND TRAINS Designs not user-friendly

THE latest fleet of SBS Transit single-deck Scania buses leaves much to be desired.

The overhead handrails along the seats just behind the driver are so low, they inhibit passengers occupying the window seat from disembarking smoothly. The narrow walkway and additional steps towards the rear of the bus are dangerous for alighting and standing passengers.

Warning signs are no substitute for care for functionality and safety in design.

The MRT did not fare much better when it removed seats in cabins to raise people's chances of boarding and offer standing commuters more room. Would it not have been better to retain seats on one side of the train, so commuters with special needs will not have to squeeze through the crowd into another cabin with seats or suffer throughout their journey?

Station platforms should also clearly indicate which sections of the station are serviced by seatless cabins, so commuters with special needs will know to avoid them.

As Singapore shifts towards a greying population, attention to such user-friendly details is starting to mean a lot to commuters.

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