

## Texting travel on the buses

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TECHNOLOGY allowing commuters to access train timetables on their mobile telephones will soon also be available to bus travellers.

More than 2000 commuters downloaded the Nomads on Track software to their phones to access timetables in a 12-month trial in Adelaide.

Because of the scheme's success the trial has been extended and there are plans for an expansion.

The software, which is free to download, provides information of any delays and disruptions to services.

Train commuter Peter O'Malley, 47, of Goodwood, said he used it regularly.

"At least once a week I catch the train so I use my mobile phone to find out times instead of carrying around a bulky timetable," he said.

"It is difficult to read big train timetables too, whereas with your phone you just scroll down and it shows you the next six services running."

The application, which is available on Java mobile telephones, was developed by Laborotech. Company managing director Alex Drysdale said he was happy with the scheme's popularity.

"Following our short trial here our contract has been extended and we are hoping the service will be available to bus commuters," he said. "We are hoping about 10,000 commuters will be using it within four years.

"Because this is such new technology we are surprised with how many people have already taken it up."

Office of Public Transport executive director Heather Webster was pleased commuters were using Nomads on Track.

"I think it is a very successful program and now we provide travel information on the internet, at the railway station, through timetable booklets and now by mobile phone," she said. "It is the most comprehensive form of a timetable."