**Participant Information Sheet**

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| **Research title:** | Transportation planning for reducing carbon dioxide emissions |
| **Lead researcher:** | Xiaoyu Ma |
| **Other researchers:** | Jiaxin Cai, qiaorui Guo, Yijia Zhao |
| **Research team contact:** | xiaoyu.ma2@student.uq.edu.au |
| **Ethics approval number:** | N/A |
| **PIS version number** | *2*0250905v1 |

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. Please read the following information about the project so that you can decide whether you would like to take part in this research. Please feel free to ask any questions you might have about your involvement in the project. You can also talk to someone you trust, like a family member or friend, before deciding if you want to participate.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to stop at any time, and you would not need to give any explanation for your decision to stop participating.

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a Consent Form and will be given a copy of that signed form and this Participant Information Sheet to keep. Your decision whether you take part, or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with The University of Queensland.

**What is the purpose of this research?**

The purpose of this research is to test an early prototype of a travel application that helps people understand the carbon emissions of different transport options and encourages low-carbon travel choices. By observing how people interact with the prototype, we aim to identify areas where the design can be improved to make it clearer, easier to use, and more effective in promoting sustainable travel. It is not funded by any external organisation.

**What does participation involve?**

If you agree to take part:

You will be asked to complete two short tasks using the prototype on a computer or mobile device.

The tasks will involve:

Viewing the carbon emissions of different travel modes (walking, cycling, bus, train).

Selecting a recommended eco-friendly route and reviewing the sustainability message.

The session will take about 10 minutes in total.

The test will take place in a classroom at The University of Queensland.

With your permission, we may make notes and/or record your screen and spoken comments while you complete the tasks. This will help us analyse how people use the prototype.

You will also be asked to think aloud during the tasks, saying what you are looking at, what you expect to happen, and what you find confusing.

At the end, you may be asked a few short questions about your experience.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

By participating in this project, you will gain a better understanding of environmental issues and how individual travel choices can contribute to reducing carbon emissions. You may also feel encouraged to engage more actively in community or volunteer activities related to sustainability. As a token of appreciation for your time, all participants will receive a small incentive in the form of shared-bike discount vouchers after completing the public testing. Please note that participation is entirely voluntary, and you will still receive the incentive even if you choose to withdraw from the study.

**What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?**

Taking part in this study involves minimal risk. You may experience some inconvenience due to the time required to complete the prototype testing and answer evaluation questions. In some cases, participants may feel mild frustration if tasks are not immediately clear or if technical issues occur during the test. Please be assured that all feedback and responses will remain confidential and used only for research purposes. Other than the small incentive provided, there may be no direct personal benefit from participation.

**What will happen to****the information about me?**

By signing the Consent Form you consent to UQ collecting, using and (where applicable) disclosing your information as set out in this Participant Information Statement and the Consent Form. Information obtained in connection with this project will be retained and disposed of in accordance with relevant University of Queensland policies and State and National regulations. For further information regarding the management of research data and information, you may refer to UQ’s [Research Data Management Policy](https://policies.uq.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=120).

Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential. Confidentiality will be maintained by signing the Consent Form you consent to UQ collecting, using and (where applicable) disclosing your information as set out in this Participant Information Statement and the Consent Form. Information obtained in connection with this project will be retained and disposed of in accordance with relevant University of Queensland policies and State and National regulations. For further information regarding the management of research data and information, you may refer to UQ’s Research Data Management Policy.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your express permission.Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential. Confidentiality will be maintained by replacing your name with a participant code, and all data will be stored in password-protected files accessible only to the research team. No identifiable data will be sent overseas. Because of this coding process, your identity will not appear in any of the research records.

The collected data may be used again for secondary/future research or submitted to a data repository. Identifiable data will not be used in this way without your permission. The consent form will describe situations where collected data may be used again.

Any information obtained during the research project is subject to inspection (for the purpose of verifying the procedures and the data) by the relevant authorities and authorised representatives of The University of Queensland, or as required by law. Designated University individuals (data stewards or custodians) may also have access to the information for the purposes of ensuring long term retention and disposal. By signing the Consent Form, you authorise release of, or access to, this confidential information to the relevant research personnel and authorities as noted above.

Personal Information

**What will happen if I decide to withdraw?**

Your participation in this research is voluntary and you are free to withdraw without needing to provide an explanation. If you withdraw from this study, you will incur no penalty

and you may do so at any time by telling the researcher during the session.

If you decide to withdraw, we will not collect additional data or information from you. Any data, samples and information already collected may be retained as described in this Participant Information Sheet and the Consent Form to ensure that the results of the research project can be measured properly and to comply with relevant regulations.

If you decide to withdraw, we will not collect additional data or information from you. Any data already collected may be retained in accordance with this Participant Information Sheet and the Consent Form to ensure that the results of the research project can be measured properly and to comply with relevant regulations. Where data have already been de-identified and aggregated, it may no longer be possible to remove individual contributions.

**Can I hear about the results of this research?**

You can request a summary of results after the study is completed.

**Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?**

Questions about the nature of this project and participation in it should be directed to the research team (see top of information sheet for details).

This study adheres to the principles of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. The study has received ethics approval in accordance with the review processes of The University of Queensland. You are free to discuss concerns regarding this study or your participation in it with the research team, but if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Human Research Ethics Team via email [humanethics@research.uq.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@research.uq.edu.au) or phone (see contact details at: <https://research-support.uq.edu.au/research-support/ethics-integrity-compliance/contacts>).