



[month] [day], 2023

CONSENT FORM

Project Title: **Benchmarking Spatial Access for Community-Level Accessibility Standards**

Lead researcher: Dr. Mikiko Terashima, Associate Professor, Dalhousie University

Co-investigators: Katherine Deturbide, Research Analyst, Dalhousie University
Kate Clark, Research Analyst, Dalhousie University,

Contact info: PEACH Research Unit, peach@dal.ca

Introduction

By participating in this focus group, you are taking part in a research project— Benchmarking Spatial Access for Community-Level Accessibility Standards — conducted by a team of researchers. Your participation in this research is entirely your choice.

You are eligible to participate in this focus group if you are 18 years of age or older. At any time during the focus group, you can choose to end your participation. There will be no impact if you decide to stop participating at any point. The information below tells you about what is involved in the research, what you will be asked to do and about any benefit, risk, inconvenience or discomfort that you might experience.

You should discuss any questions you have about this study with the research assistants present. Please ask as many questions as you like. If we are unable to answer a question at this time or if you have questions later, please contact peach@dal.ca.

What is this study about?

We want to learn from you to better understand how we can remove and prevent barriers to accessibility in the built environment. We will be collecting data about pedestrian travel behaviour and experiences through consultation with persons with a wide range of experiences with disability.

What does the focus group involve?

The focus groups will include up to 10 participants and will include a group discussion and some participatory activities. There are two types of focus groups you may participate in based on your interests. Focus group 1 will be primarily discussion-based and will include questions about your travel habits, your ideas about, and experiences of, interacting with pedestrian infrastructure in your daily life, as well as proposing priorities for walkable services and amenities. Focus group 2 will be about accessible neighbourhood design and will ask you to respond to designs for pedestrian environments proposed by the research team. In this focus group, group discussions will be accompanied by 'co-design' exercises to allow participants to envision their ideal community. Smaller focus groups are available should you need additional support; please contact us for more information.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Your participation in this research is entirely your choice. You may stop participating at any time. Should you choose, your responses during focus groups may be withdrawn from our records so that no quotes are used for our research. If you wish to withdraw your responses, please inform the research team at peach@dal.ca before December 20, 2024. After this time, it will not be possible to withdraw your data as the research team will have already begun analyses with the data included.

Anticipated Risks and Benefits

We do not anticipate any abnormal risks associated with participation in this study. Only grouped information will be presented in reports and presentations/lectures, therefore it will not be possible to single out your responses. However, by participating in a group setting, one risk may be that your responses are not private from other participants, caregivers, or support persons in attendance. Should you feel uncomfortable with providing responses in a group setting, we would advise that you complete the anonymous survey or discuss other methods of providing your feedback with the research team.

There are no direct benefits to participating in this study. By participating in this project, you will have helped to raise awareness of challenges that persons with disabilities face on a daily basis and thus increase the likelihood that these problems will be addressed in the future with your perspectives in mind.

Honorarium

Compensation will be provided to focus group participants. You will receive an honorarium of \$100 to thank you for your time. People who choose not to complete their participation will still be compensated in full.

Your Privacy and Limits to Privacy

The research team will protect your privacy and confidentiality based on the rules by the University. The focus group and one-on-one meeting will be audio recorded. The recordings will then be typed up and stored on the office computer and not shared online. No identifying

information will be used to attribute quotes in the transcripts or in reports produced by the research team.

There may be a time that the research team may need to disclose the data we collected from you. That may be when any of the research team notices that you are experiencing something harmful, like you are being mistreated by someone. If we notice it, we have to report to the authority and the authority may ask us to show the data we collected for information.

What if I require further information?

We are happy to talk with you about any questions or concerns you may have about your participation in this research study. Please feel free to contact us at peach@dal.ca.

If you have any ethical concerns about your participation in this research, you may contact Research Ethics, Dalhousie University at ethics@dal.ca and reference REB file # 2023-xxxx.

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

Project Title: Benchmarking Spatial Access for Community-Level Accessibility Standards

Lead Researcher: Dr. Mikiko Terashima, mikiko.terashima@dal.ca

I have read and/or heard the explanation about this research. I have been given the opportunity to discuss it and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to take part in this study. My participation is voluntary, and I understand that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time before December 20, 2024.

Signature

Name (please print)

Date