Co-Motion is a research project funded by the EPSRC and led by the University of York, exploring mobility and wellbeing for older people who are going through changes in their lives, such as stopping work, becoming a grandparent or starting to use a mobility scooter.

One project activity used sensors and low cost mobile devices to measure how the urban environment relates to the wellbeing of mobility scooter users.

**METHOD**

Deployed sensor technology onboard mobility scooters to capture a range of data including - bumpiness, exposure to pollution (air and noise).

**RESULTS**

Successfully recorded participants journeys across York and Leeds. Noise, air pollution and experiences mapped.

**CONCLUSION**

Growing unregulated second hand market.

• Lack of training/knowledge of road law.

• A RICA Survey found that 74% of respondents would not make the same journeys if they could not use their scooter. RICA (2014).

• Users face issues such as poor surfaces including roughness, gradient, camber and slip, inaccessible routes, street/pavement obstacles, exposure to air and noise pollution due to routes they are forced to take.

**KEY FINDINGS**

• Proof-of-concept realised: data collected, analysed and mapped

• Health, safety, comfort and accessibility issues are faced by users but are often not considered in urban planning

• Need to address physical barriers to mobility scooter use: design, routes, surfaces

• Overcome negative perception issues such as speed and lifestyle

• Policy interventions need to be considered e.g. insurance, testing, driving fines

• Future mobility scooter design require features that offer greater assistance to users improving their mobility, accessibility and utility

• Anecdotally, use of mobility scooters had a positive affect on wellbeing.