1 Introducing the project
- This focus group is part of a study on school transport and safer journeys to school
- We will be discussing your children's experiences of travelling to and from school and of school transport and your own experiences of assisting your children's school transport needs
- The discussion will last no longer than 45 minutes
- We will be taking notes and may also be recording the discussion as it is important to record exactly what each of you say.
- Any information will be confidential and your name will not be used outside of this discussion.

2 Travel in a typical school week
- where they live and what school their children go to
- description of a typical routine weekday
- journeys to and from school made - mode of transport used – do you take them to and from school?
- Any problems getting your children to travel to school?

Prompts to obtain more information
- structure on a daily basis where possible
- distinguish by type of trips – regular or special journeys for particular reasons
- Crossing main roads?
- Usually accompanied or unaccompanied? By yourself or someone else?

3 Use of public transport
- Use of bus or train to get to school
- Does your child use a scheduled Translink (Ulsterbus/NI Railways/Metro) service?
- Does your child use an Education and Library board service?
- Fares or free transport entitlement?
- Experiences of assisting them or getting them to use public transport on school journeys

Prompts to obtain more information
- Why? Route? Distance traveled? Service frequency and timings?
- Social aspects? Problems with other pupils/students on bus?

4 Car Journeys
- Do you give your children a lift to and from school?
- Does someone else give them a lift on your behalf? Why? Car access?
- Every day or on special occasions?
- Times and routes taken. On the way to somewhere else? Work?

Prompts to obtain more information
- Reasons for choice?
- Benefits of choice?
- Can this cause congestion or car parking problems near the school?
- Distances to be traveled?
- Available alternative modes? Bus/train/walking/cycling?

5 Walking
- Do your children walk to and from school?
- Everyday or just sometimes?
- How far is the school?
- How long does it take them to walk?
- Do they have to cross any roads?
- Are there crossing points and/or patrols (lollypop men/women)

Prompts to obtain more information
- Reasons for choice?
- Benefits of choice? Health? Environment?
- How does it make them feel? How does it make you feel?
- Security and safety concerns? Areas? Roads to be crossed? Uniform?
- Alone or in a group? Any other concerns for their welfare?

6 Cycling
- Do your children cycle to and from school?
- Everyday or just sometimes?
- How far is the school?
- How long does it take them to cycle?
- Do they have to use any roads? Busy? Cycle lanes/paths?
- Do they feel safe? Do you feel content for their safety?
- Are there secure bicycle facilities at school?

Prompts to obtain more information
- Reasons for choice?
- Benefits of choice? Health? Environment?
- How does it make you feel?
- Alone or in a group? Any other concerns for their welfare?

7 Street environment and areas
- Do your children use busy roads? Does this concern you? Why?
- Are they main roads or minor roads?
- Are there times or places they feel unsafe? Why? Where?
- Are there times or places you feel they could be unsafe? Why? Where?
- How would they normally cope when they feel unsafe? How do you cope?
- Weather and seasons – travelling on dark mornings and/or afternoons?

Prompts to obtain more information
- Are there features of the area(s) that make they feel unsafe? What? Why?
- Avoid areas? Does this mean a longer trip?
- Differences in the street environment in the winter? During wet and dark weather? Perhaps means a change in the way they travel?

Thank you very much for your time and contribution.