



Making Roads Safer

Nottingham Trent University *Mobility Scooters*

Road Safety Trust
Funding Showcase



The Road Safety Trust awarded a grant of nearly £89k to Nottingham Trent University in 2018 to review the hazards presented to motorised mobility scooter users.

The aim was to provide users with a training guide to **help improve the safety of motorised mobility scooter users on the roads.**

The number of motorised mobility scooters (MMS) used in the UK has increased from an estimated 90,000 in 2005 to over 300,000 in 2014. With the aging population, it is anticipated that MMS will continue in popularity.

Even with this growth, very little research has been conducted into road safety. The Department for Transport reported 209 accidents involving a mobility scooter in 2014, including nine fatalities.

Currently there is no standardised training for mobility scooter users. Retailers generally provide information on vehicular control, however there is no specific training offered to

MMS users about road usage, hazards, and safety.

Nottingham Trent University used the funding from the Road Safety Trust to **support and educate MMS users on the roads.**

Phase one of the research looked to understand the scope of problems faced by MMS users. Nearly 270 questionnaires were completed exploring the hazards faced driving an MMS on the roads. The result of the questionnaires enabled Nottingham Trent University to produce classifications of hazards: pedestrians, traffic/other drivers and structural design of road crossings.

Phase two of the research comprised a real-life driving study. Twenty-seven MMS users had GoPro cameras attached to the vehicles and the user wore mobile eye tracking glasses whilst driving a route around Nottingham City



Centre. The route included 42 crossings and a variety of hazards and videos of the drive were assessed by a researcher in terms of the types of hazards encountered



and strategies used to deal with them. Thirteen MMS users then re-watched footage from their drive, explaining why they were behaving in particular ways. These studies confirmed the classifications of hazards and provided real life footage of these hazards being encountered and negotiated.



Using the insight from the questionnaire and footage from phase two, a training video was created – [See and Scoot](#).

The final part of the project evaluated the effectiveness of the training DVD. Forty-five older adults with no MMS experience were trained to handle an MMS and then either shown See or Scoot or a video not related to MMS training. They then completed a course through Nottingham, which was recorded using GoPro HD cameras and eye tracking glasses. Analysis showed that watching See and Scoot led to improvements in the way hazards were negotiated. This led to participants using better strategies as to how to negotiate hazards.

See and Scoot is available online and is being used by TGA Mobility, one of the largest MMS manufacturers in the UK.

The Road Safety Trust is dedicated to making the UK's roads the safest in the world. As an independent grant-giving charity, the Road Safety Trust funds vital research and practical interventions committed to reducing the number of people killed or injured on our roads.





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The Road Safety Trust

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