

## **Consent Cover Letter**

### **Transportation for Seniors\_Focus Group**

You are being asked to participate in a research study that seeks to understand the accessibility from the perspective of older adults and help decision makers integrate equity into the future policy framework. This study is being conducted by the researchers at the University of Utah.

*Principal Investigator:* Andy Hong, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

*Department and Institution:* Department of City and Metropolitan Planning, University of Utah

If you agree, you will participate in a focus group. The anticipated time for your participation in this research is approximately 1 hour. During the study, you will have the opportunity to share your experiences and thoughts about the transportation services/resources and your accessibility. The researchers may record or collect artifacts by taking pictures, or sketching. The focus groups will be videotaped or audio-taped, and the participants will be notified beforehand and asked for consent. Your participation is completely voluntary. You may choose not to answer a question or are free to withdraw consent and discontinue participation in the focus group at any time for any reason without penalty or loss of benefits.

The risks of this study are minimal. You may feel some discomfort sharing personal information related to your issues or experience. These risks are similar to those you experience when discussing personal information with others. If you feel upset from this experience, you can tell the researcher, and he/she will tell you about resources available to help. We cannot promise any direct benefit for taking part in this study. However, we hope the information we get from this study may help develop a greater understanding of the accessibility of older adults.

Focus groups will take place in a private place. All research records will be stored as digital files on a password-protected computer. Audio and video recordings will be used for transcription purposes and they will be kept for the duration of this project. A pseudonym will be attached to the transcript. Only the researchers who work with this study will be allowed to access your information, and you will not be identified in any publications.

If you have questions, complaints or concerns about this study, you can contact Andy Hong at (801) 581-8255 or by email at [a.hong@utah.edu](mailto:a.hong@utah.edu).

Contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) if you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant. Also, contact the IRB if you have questions, complaints or concerns which you do not feel you can discuss with the investigator. The University of Utah IRB may be reached by phone at (801) 581-3655 or by e-mail at [irb@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:irb@hsc.utah.edu).



Research Participant Advocate: You may also contact the Research Participant Advocate (RPA) by phone at (801) 581-3803 or by email at [participant.advocate@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:participant.advocate@hsc.utah.edu).

By participating in the focus groups, you are giving your consent to participate in this research. Thank you for your willingness to participate!

