

Considering the use of bike lanes by mobility device users: A qualitative study

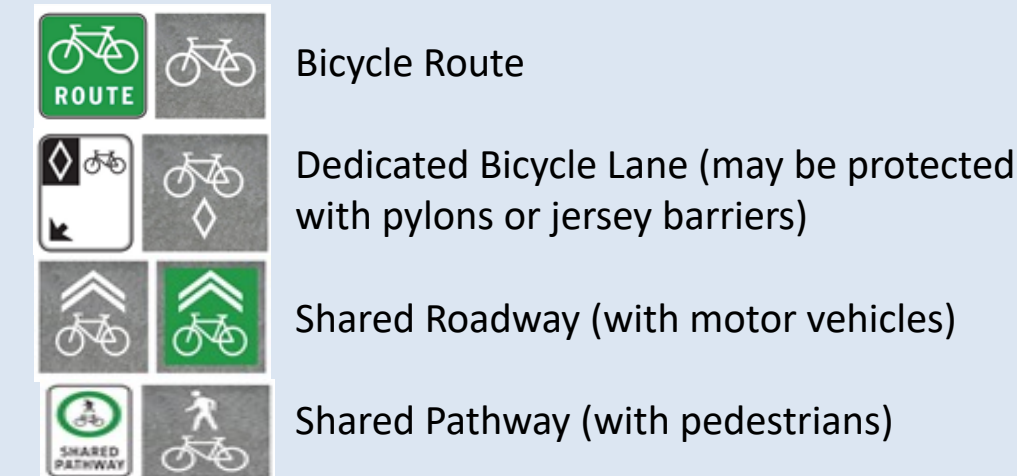
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Introduction

- In some places, mobility device use is only allowed on city sidewalks (CBC News, 2021; Hassanpour & Bigazzi, 2023).
- Individuals who use mobility devices often find themselves using cycle lanes as a preferred means of travel due to poor sidewalk conditions (Shoman & Imine, 2023).
- It is not clear whether cycle infrastructure is accessible for people with disabilities who might be using non-adapted cycles, adaptive (hand) cycles, or their wheeled mobility devices (Cox & Bartle, 2020) .

Cycle Lane Markings in City of Vancouver (2024)

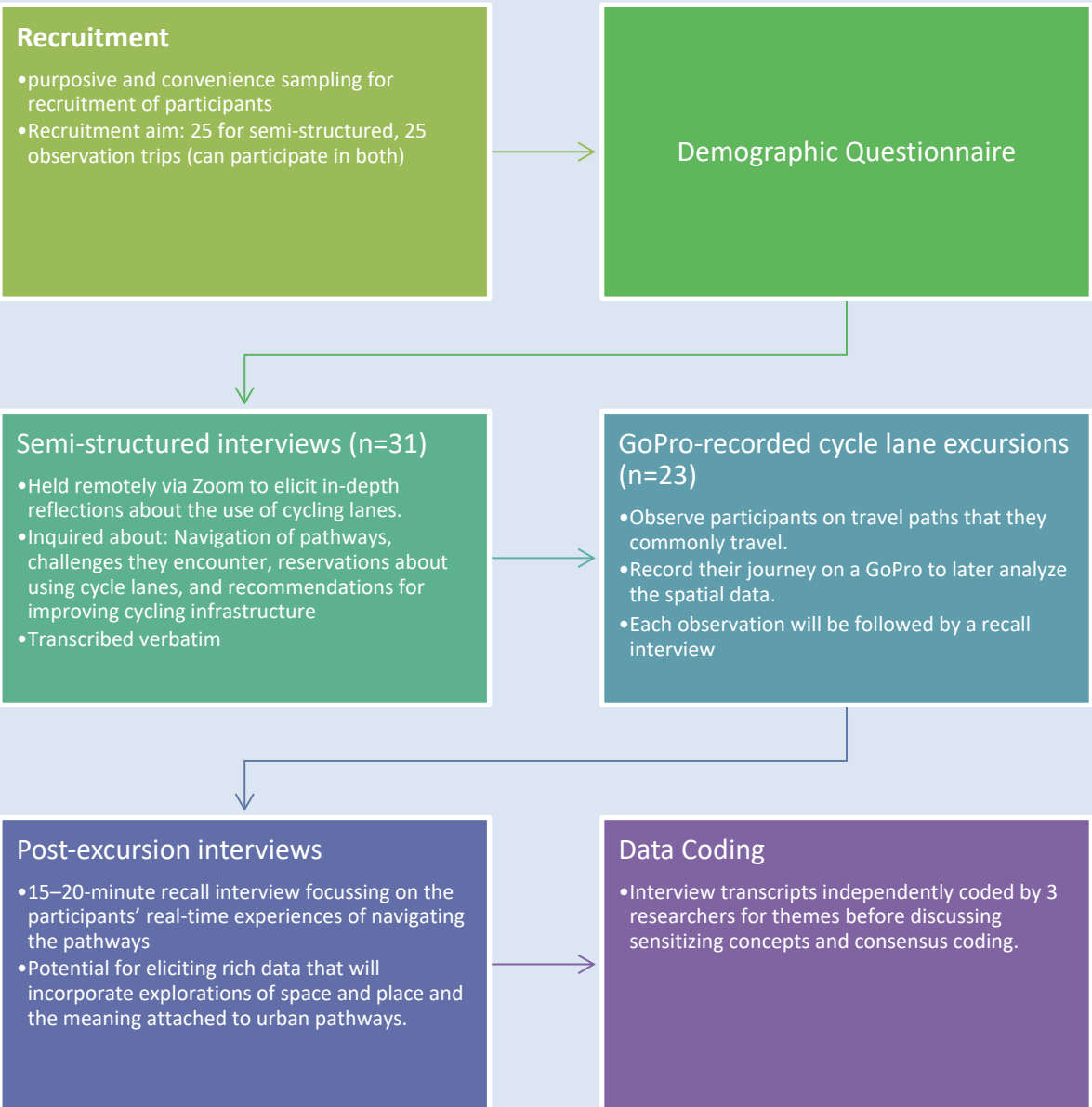


Objectives

- To explore the potential use of cycle lanes by people who use mobility devices.
- To observe mobility device users navigating cycle lanes and their interactions with other path users.

Methods

An ethnographic perspective is taken to guide our understanding of the meaning-making process in the use of pathways (Carpenter & Suto, 2008) .



Results

This poster presents the results and implications from the semi-structured interview (n=31) portion of the research study.

Devices Participants Reported Using in their Community (n=31)	Number
Manual wheelchair	15
Power wheelchair	9
Mobility scooter	7
Manual wheelchair with add-on propulsion. Six with electric devices and 1 participant used ski poles to propel self.	7
Bicycle	3
Crutches	3
E-bike	3
Handcycle	2
Walker	2
Recumbent tricycle	1
Cane	1
Visual aid	1

Three main themes were identified:

- Sidelined by sidewalks:** Sidewalk use can be difficult because of factors like poor maintenance, construction, and clutter (e.g., sandwich boards).
- Choosing the path of least resistance:** Participants strategically used a combination of city streets, bike lanes and sidewalks to move around.
- Mobility as both means and ends:** Important decision-making factors participants used included focusing on safety of self and others and valuing routes that are enjoyable (e.g., improving wellbeing and facilitating positive social interactions).

