

# Valuing pedestrian journeys

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# Who we are, what we do

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- We are a Committee of 18 people
- Our members are mainly disabled people and older people
- Our role is advise Government and others

# Our aim

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“Disabled people and older people should have the same opportunity to travel as everyone else.”



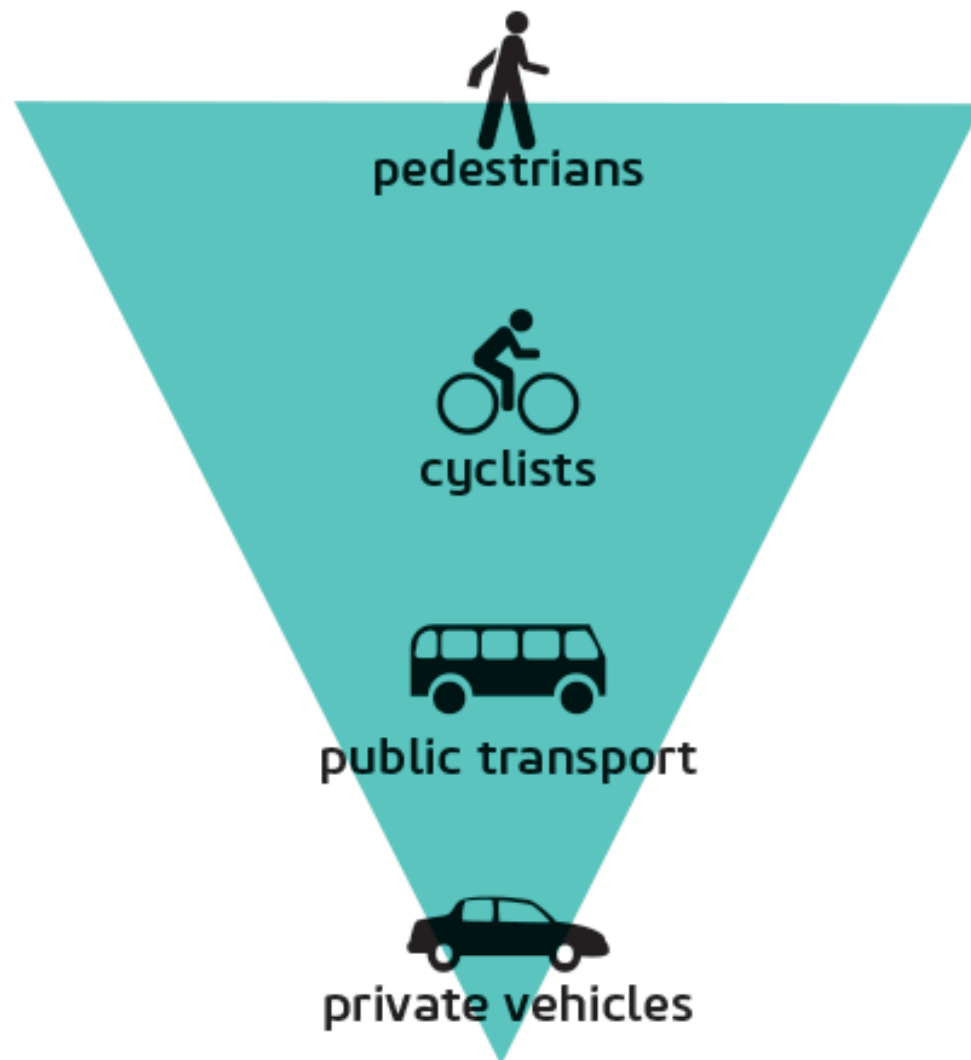
# Pedestrian journeys and the transport chain

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- Most journeys involve a series of interlinked steps called the transport chain
- The transport chain includes planning and making a journey using one or more modes of transport
- Nearly every journey we make involves being a pedestrian at some point
- Every link of the transport chain must be accessible

# Road users hierarchy - rhetoric or reality?

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- The hierarchy is a tool used by policy makers and planners
- It is designed to ensure that the needs of vulnerable road users are fully considered in new schemes
- Our work questions to what extent the hierarchy has been applied

# Our work around pedestrian journeys

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- Talked to many disabled people and older people about their experiences
- Undertaken pedestrian audits of towns and city centres
- Played an active role in the development of public realm schemes
- Looked at the “shared space” concept





# Our findings

- Barriers in the pedestrian environment are a major issue
- These barriers make everyday journeys difficult or impossible
- Barriers make using public transport is particularly difficult
- Barriers include inadequate infrastructure, poor application of standards, clutter on pavements and the behaviour of other road users



# Pedestrian Infrastructure

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- Inadequate pavement widths
- Poor and damaged surfaces
- Limited or no opportunities to cross
- Absence of dropped kerbs and tactile paving





# Poor application of standards

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- Incorrectly installed crossings
- Incorrectly installed tactile paving
- Inadequate dropped kerbs
- Poor selection of materials



# Clutter on pavements

- A Boards
- Pavement cafes
- Seating, bins and lighting columns
- Telephone kiosks
- “Imagine the reaction if we moved this onto the road”





# Behaviour of other road users

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- Vehicles parked on pavements, at bus stops and across crossings
- Vehicles damaging paving
- Driver behaviour at crossings
- The behaviour of cyclists





# Access to public transport

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- Good pedestrian access is vital to access public transport
- Barriers identified above reduce benefits of improved accessibility
- Access at stops and interchanges need to be improved





# Do we value bus passengers?

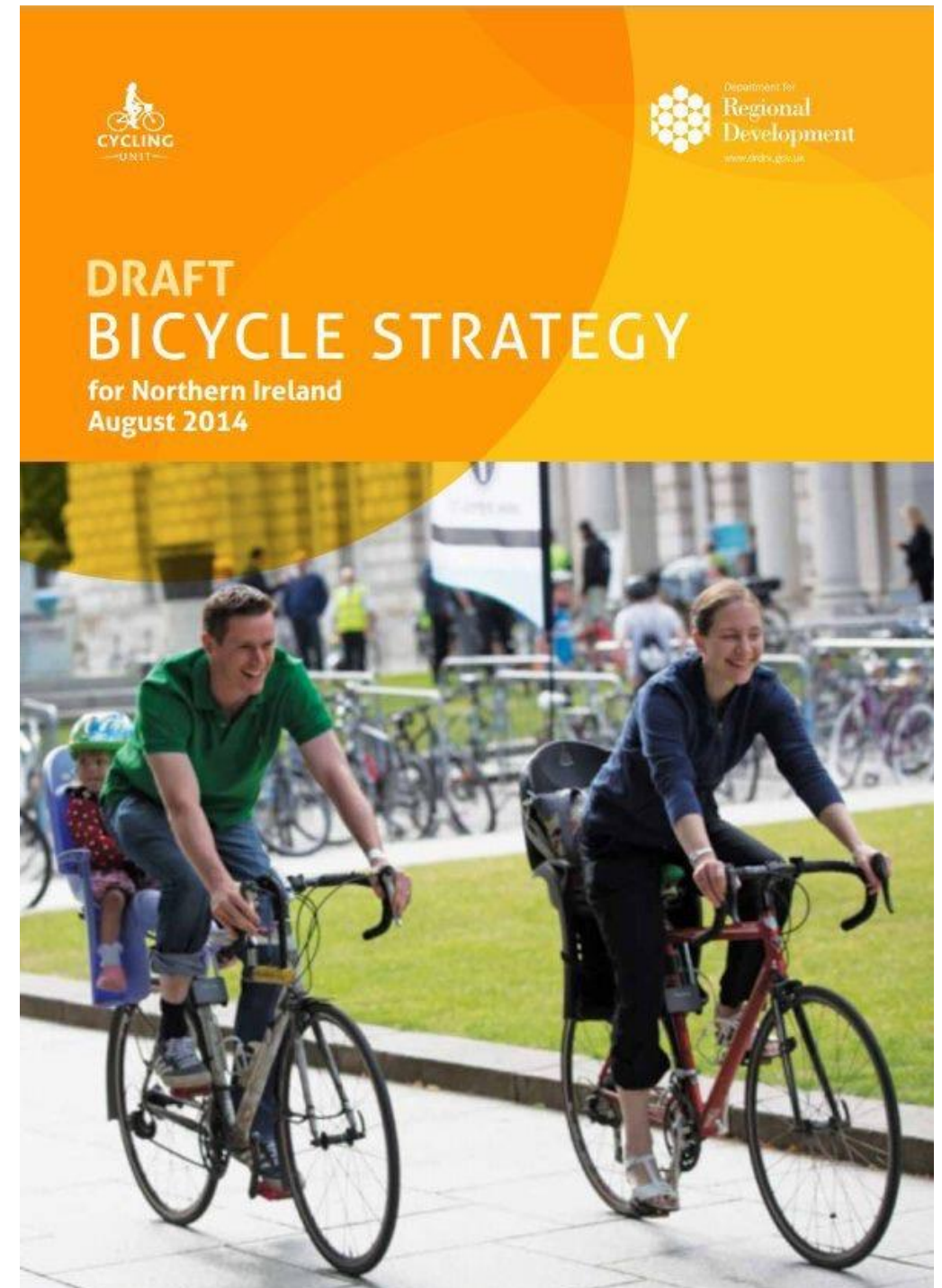
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# Change required

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- Investment
- Greater priority for pedestrians in policy and planning
- Reclaim pavements for pedestrians
- Adherence to design standards
- Engagement





# Positive developments - Belfast Streets Ahead

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# Positive Developments - Belfast on the Move

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# Positive Developments - Belfast Rapid Transit

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# One step forward ..... Pavement cafes

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# Final thought - Shared surfaces?

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