



Healthy Campus Case Study



HEA

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas
The Higher Education Authority

Ride, Reflect, Redesign: A Design Research Study of Micromobility in Limerick

Institution/ Organisation

University of Limerick

Who leads/ led the project?

Vipul Vinzuda, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture and Product Design, UL
Bernard Hartigan, lecturer, School of Architecture and Product Design, UL

Date and timeframe

Academic year 2025-26

Project Rationale

The rationale for the project, including any identified health needs.

Project Overview/ Summary

Second year BSc (Product Design and Technology) UL students were engaged in a 5-weeks class room/studio project to study adaptation and usage of micromobility in Limerick.

This student-led research project investigated how individuals experience micromobility, such as e-scooters, bicycles, and shared mobility services in urban environments. Students teams engaged participants through surveys, interviews, and co-design workshops and developed insights and collaboratively explore potential design solutions.

Overarching research questions:

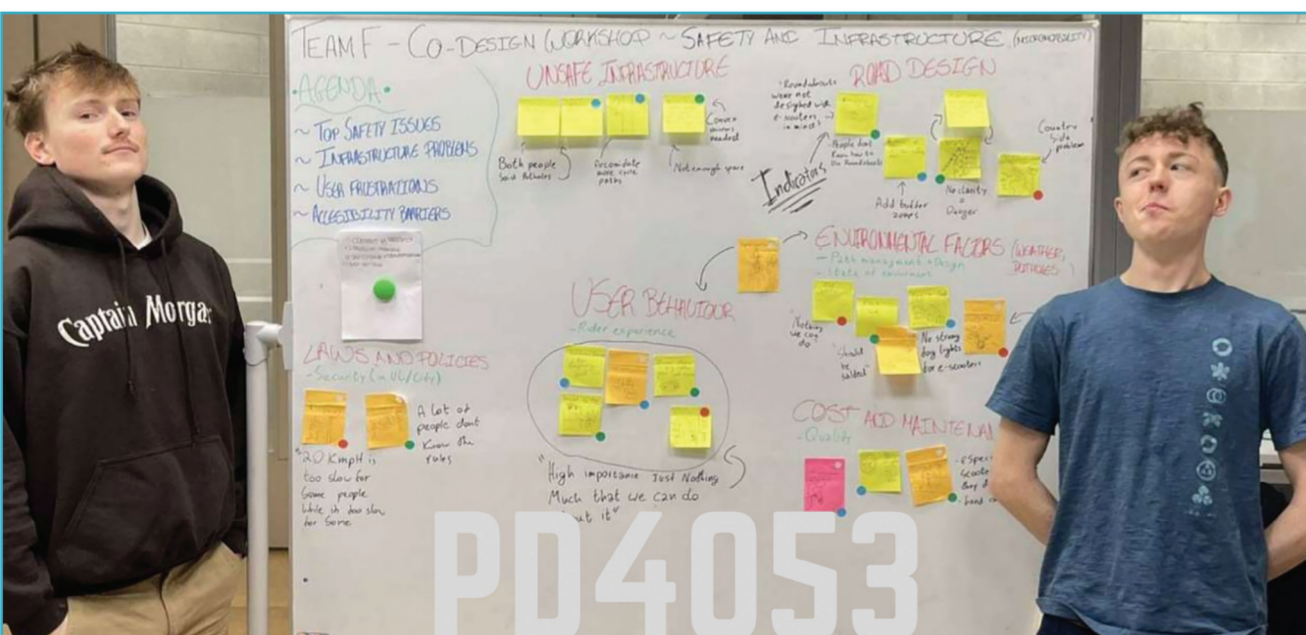
1. What are the key user needs and frustrations with micromobility?
2. How do design factors influence user satisfaction and adoption?

3. What opportunities exist for improving micromobility through design?

This project integrated design research teaching with real-world mobility challenges. The evaluation included formative assessments and participant feedback/collaboration. Teams explored challenges related to adaptation behaviour towards such sustainable alternative, perceived safety issue, concern of available accessible charging points, parking and theft related problems, legislation and infrastructural gaps, riding posture, difficulties of riding in low light-wet weather conditions, overall intent was to enable co-existence of such micro mobility in the city lanes with clarity to all stakeholders and other drivers/riders, and pedestrians. During co-design workshops, each teams generated several sketch ideas, solutions and strategic policies to bring transformation, and submitted guidelines for future directions.

Key Learning Points

- Making young generations/design students lead the conversation and exploring such subject brings rich insights and fresh approach/ideas.
- Embedding wellbeing and sustainability enriches learning.
- Real-world immersion study fosters meaningful engagements.
- Co-design approach produces grounded and empathetic insights.



User Observation Sketches

Many delivery "drivers" are now using scooters/ bikes over cars



Many lecturers do not use cars in UL potentially for environmental reasons or the poor parking system



E scooters are popular amongst you people as it saves time over walking when they don't have a car



It is very common to see this mode of transport in a city in comparison to the countryside as it is ideal for fast-paced

Limerick Framework for Action		Whole Campus Approach	Type of Evaluation
Leadership	Students	Campus Environment (Facilities & Services) (Pillar 2)	Formative Evaluation
Policies	Research	Campus Culture & Communications (Pillar 3)	

