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### RESIDENTIAL LOCATION AND TRAVEL IN A LARGE CHINESE CITY

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This project was a study of influences of residential location on travel behavior in Hangzhou Metropolitan Area, China. The study was carried out during the period 2005-2007 by Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) in cooperation with Zhejiang University. The project was headed by Professor, Dr. Ing. Petter Næss, who carried out NIBR's part of the research work. At Zhejiang University, the research team consisted of Professor Yin Wenyao and the research fellows Yan Hui, Ma Weihong, Yao Yinmei and Li Fen.

The study shows that the location of the dwelling relative to the center structure of Hangzhou Metropolitan Area exerts a considerable influence on the travel behavior of the respondents. On average, living close to downtown Hangzhou contributes to a lower total amount of travel, a higher share of trips by bike or on foot, and lower energy use for transport. The location of the dwelling relative to the closest second-order and third-order center also influences travel, but not to the same extent as the location of the residence relative to the city center of Hangzhou. The geographical differences in travel behavior exist independently of residential preferences and attitudes to transport and environmental issues and can therefore not be explained by residential self-selection. Instead, a number of rationales for travel behavior identified in the qualitative interviews showed important links in the causal mechanisms by which residential location can influence travel.

The following articles and reports based on the project have been published or have been accepted for publication:

- Næss, P. (2011): "Residential location, travel and energy use: the case of Hangzhou Metropolitan Area." Forthcoming in *Journal of Transport and Land Use*, Vol. 4.
- Næss, P. (2009): "Residential Location, Travel Behavior, and Energy Use: Hangzhou Metropolitan Area Compared to Copenhagen." *Indoor and Built Environment*, Vol. 18, pp. 382-395.
- Næss, P. (2007): *Residential Location and Travel in Hangzhou Metropolitan Area*. NIBR report 2007:1. Oslo: Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research. 357 pages.
- Yan, H.; Ma, W.; Yao, Y. & Li, F. (2007): *Hangzhou residential travel behavior analysis*. Research report on demographic issues. Hangzhou: Zhejiang University. 78 pages.