**But where will I park? Building support for revitalisation**

There are a number of public and private projects underway in Nelson City aimed at revitalising the city centre. These range from residential housing, commercial space, transport connections, and street upgrades. Parking continues to be a much talked about component of these projects and in some cases challenges the overall deliverability of projects.

[Te Ara ō Whakatū](https://shape.nelson.govt.nz/city-centre-spatial-plan), the Nelson City Centre Spatial Plan outlines the vision of Nelson City as:

* A great place for people
* Connected to each other
* With a vibrant heart
* A smart economy
* In a resilient environment.

The Nelson City Parking Strategy outlines the role parking has in influencing transport choices, while acknowledging that, for some journeys, driving remains the most practical option. It outlines the hierarchy of interventions Council should consider in managing demand and community expectations. It also demonstrates that, for the most part, Nelson does not have a capacity issue with parking.

As practitioners, we have discussed the role of parking, and are more comfortable than most in arguing that the removal of parking can have positive benefits for urban spaces and should not be used to stop progress happening. “Taking back the roads” has long been a talked about shift.

Rather than relitigate the positive/negative benefits of parking removal, this Learning Café instead focuses on how we can reframe the conversation and what other tools are available to support Councils in communicating with the public that this isn’t ‘Carmageddon’. We will pose current challenges, which aren’t unique to Nelson, balancing the application of strategies and reality. Using your collective wisdom, we will build a tool-kit to help support future work.