**Ōtepoti Dunedin Retail Quarter Upgrade**

The Dunedin City Council has a vision to make Ōtepoti a distinctive destination and one of the world’s great small cities. A key project for realising this vision is the Dunedin Retail Quarter upgrade. The aim of the upgrade is to improve safety, accessibility, and amenity for all modes and types of users along the street. AECOM were tasked with developing the detailed business case, design and supporting construction for this project. To align our approach with the client's aspirations, we chose to take an innovative and novel path.

Our approach involved introducing non-monetised benefits into the BCR calculation, a fairer and more equitable consultation process that allowed the project to be truly community led, weaving local mana whenua values and heritage into the design of the project, and helping to define what modern transport planning and engineering should look like in Aotearoa. Ultimately, this approach broadened the perspective, illustrating that transport projects are not mere conduits from point A to B but have the potential to define communities and yield benefits that extend far beyond the discipline of transport planning and engineering. The design was subsequently developed in close consultation with the community including accessibility and disability representatives. The resulting design was a unique approach to achieving an attractive and accessible space for all to enjoy.

The Retail Quarter Upgrade can chart a path forward for people-oriented transport projects that truly deliver on the original vision of the client.