**Quick Build Cycle Lane Protection – Lessons Learnt in Auckland**

In 2021 Auckland Transport kicked of a programme of quick build cycle lane protection projects, on 60 routes with existing painted cycle lanes throughout the Auckland Region. The programme was dubbed the Pop-Up Protection Programme with the idea being to provide physical separation between general traffic and bike riders, alongside existing painted cycle lanes, in the form of concrete separators. This would result in safer cycle lanes and enable less confident users to feel safer when using these facilities, being separated from traffic, encouraging greater uptake of riding as a transport option. This type of quick build protection had been used extensively as a form of separation of cycle lanes within the city centre and the programme aimed to roll this type of separation out on 60 routes (approximately 70km of protection) within three years, primarily along arterial and collector roads outside of the city centre. The aspiration of the programme was ambitious in scale and timeframes for delivery.

Upper Harbour Drive was the first route of the programme which began construction, however, the road environment had a number of characteristics which were markedly different to where the use of concrete separators had been implemented elsewhere in Auckland. Several incidents occurred involving vehicles colliding with separators, causing damage to vehicles, as well as some sport/club cyclists having incidents and finding that the new road layout did not work well for their group rides. The incidents led to significant public backlash, attention from elected officials and interest from national media sources.

This presentation is to share the design, communications and political lessons learned from the Upper Harbour Drive project and demonstrate how these have been successfully applied to subsequent projects. This will be of interest to local authorities communities and industry professionals interested in implementing quick build cycle lane separation infrastructure.