# Traffic Engineers ‘driving’ social outcomes

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| From the most complex projects to the simplest of solutions, the work done by Traffic and Transportation Engineers can have a direct and significant impact on the social outcomes achieved. This work intersects across all facets of the Transport network solution and can have far ranging consequences including how connected or isolated our communities are, how safe our neighbourhoods feel, how people use the network and how well the network supports activity and interaction. This work cuts across the small-scale stuff of where we place signs, position pedestrian crossings or accommodate street planting and seating to the larger scale interventions including how we layout roads, the cross-sections we use, the visibility we provide and the network connections we facilitate. When we get this wrong, even at the most simple and low cost end of the spectrum, we can inadvertently change how the network is used and experienced for the worse. This can have drastic impacts on the health and wellbeing of our communities by removing the opportunity to walk, cycle and interact (either through physical or perceived/mental barriers) and subjecting our communities to a life of car dependency and even isolation. Similarly, these same decisions can have direct impacts on observed and perceived security and safety of our communities leading to poorer mental and social wellbeing outcomes. Unfortunately, many of our Engineers aren’t well equipped to consider the social context and don’t fully comprehend how the design standards which they use don’t adequately consider the human context of our communities.Preference – Oral or Plenary Sessions – Abstract only  |