# Creating well-functioning urban environments around stations

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| *How do we create thriving communities around rapid transit in Auckland?* This is one of the most relevant questions facing planners and decision makers in the city today. In response to this challenge AECOM were commissioned to develop a study into Auckland’s rapid transit system. This study seeks to be the beginning of an integrated transport and land use strategy for the city. Having such a strategy in place will be critical for Auckland’s social and environmental well-being as the city grows by an extra million people over the next 30 years.  The study involved an analysis of the existing transport access and land use conditions around Auckland’s existing and committed rapid transit stations (busway, ferry, and train). Using the information gathered in this analysis a suite of high-level interventions and opportunities were developed to integrate the transport access, land use and customer experience within the station catchment. A key aspect of the study was the use of the butterfly model, which intuitively displays the levels of transport access compared to levels of land use development around the station, as well as the customer experience at the station level. The model also provided an aspirational target for the station catchment to strive for in terms of transport access, land use development and station experience.  For Auckland to have a thriving future as it grows it is paramount that this growth occurs in a way that increases accessibility and wellbeing for both the existing and future communities. This study and the future work that will flow from it will be critical to improving taha whānau in Auckland. To create thriving communities around transit it is important to have actors involved in transport as well as land use aligned on a clear set of goals and priorities. No one disciple can improve taha whānau on its own, but only when we break down silos and work together that we can do that.  Below: The butterfly model used as part of the study. |

