Title

***“I can go places that my wheelchair alone wouldn’t get me”: Designing for inclusive cycling access for everyone***

Abstract (300 word maximum):

A quarter of Aotearoa New Zealand’s population identify as disabled people, and most people will have a temporary or situational disability at some point in their lives. Disabled people have a higher incidence of deprivation and may also be discriminated against in meeting their daily needs through intersections with other aspects of identity, such as ethnicity and gender. Disabled cyclists report facing barriers, including infrastructure design, and parking and storage of cycles. Disabled people’s participation rate in cycling nationally is similar to that of non-disabled people, but there is enormous untapped potential to provide better for everyone.

Cycling has the potential to transform the lives of disabled people by improving their physical health, mental wellbeing, and quality of life, with their cycles becoming mobility aids extraordinaire. Accessible infrastructure is a critical enabler. An inclusive cycle network will be safer, easier, and more pleasant to use for people of all ages and abilities on all different types of cycles. By designing for disabled people, we can extend the benefits to people with temporary or situational impairments, those learning to ride or less confident, and non-disabled people on standard bicycles.

This interactive presentation or workshop will challenge participants to put themselves in the saddles of disabled cyclists to help image how streetscapes and cycling infrastructure need to be designed to be inclusive. It is based on developing inclusive cycling design guidance for Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. The guidance is being developed in the context of policy shifts for equitable transition to a low carbon society and denser, more liveable cities. The guidance sets out a series of common problems and possible solutions accompanied by persona profiles based on interviews with disabled cyclists and industry experts and an international literature review of existing guidance and studies on disability and cycling.