**A city shaped by rangatahi**

Statistically, engagement with young people is difficult and Wellington City Council struggles to get their views heard on city-shaping issues. As one of the key priorities in Wellington City Council’s Children and Young People Strategy, better youth participation means a city that’s not only fit four our rangatahi today, but future-proofed when they become this city’s leaders tomorrow.

Young people are road users too, though to date are often forgotten and haven’t been given the same consideration as adults when it comes to getting around and what our streets are used for. Private vehicle travel has largely dominated street design, squeezing young people out of having any autonomy over how they want to travel, let alone to do so safely.

With an expanding bike network, a city committed to halving our emissions by the end of the decade, plans in place to fix our transport network as well as increase the liveability of Pōneke, rangatahi are integral to shaping how these goals will be realised so that our city is *for all people*.

This presentation will look at how we’re reprioritising the young people of Wellington when it comes to city-shaping projects, so they have more say on how they want to see and move about their city.

We will focus on student engagement on the Paneke Pōneke Bike Network, how we’ve worked with student leaders to provide end-of-trip facilities at their schools, wrap-around behaviour change initiatives and curriculum engagement aimed to increase carbon-friendly mode-shift and awareness, how we’ve been tracking success as well as the first Low-Traffic-Neighbourhood trial in Wellington.

This talk will showcase only a fraction of the good mahi being done by WCC in the youth engagement space. However, this snapshot will show how WCC is putting their youth engagement goals into action, as well as the promising impact it's already having.