

Decarbonising Transport

Transportation
Conference

4-7 May 2021
Grand Millennium Auckland



Low Traffic Neighbourhoods – low-hanging fruit

Responding to converging crises, cities across the globe are racing to roll out low traffic neighbourhoods to improve neighbourhood streets for better access and safer recreational and social space.

Low traffic neighbourhoods are pockets of residential streets bordered by busier main roads where through traffic is prohibited. People walking and cycling have complete freedom to move through and spend time on local streets, while vehicle access is maintained to all addresses, albeit in some cases via more circuitous routes.

Low traffic neighbourhoods deliver a host of benefits to the streets they contain, as well as the wider area. Walking and cycling is made safer, easier and more pleasant, increasing community activity, local economic vitality and physical activity of residents and reducing air, noise and water pollution. Car use is reduced by tipping the balance of convenience toward active modes, with flow on benefits for accessing public transport and reducing congestion. Low traffic neighbourhoods are economical to build, especially when applying the lighter, quicker, cheaper methods of tactical urbanism.

During this interactive workshop, you will learn to plan low traffic neighbourhoods in the New Zealand context informed by the latest international best practice. Based on a map 'game board', you will apply traffic planning and street design techniques to maximise people's ability to walk, cycle and enjoy their local neighbourhoods while maintaining access for all modes. Your budget will be constrained and you will be working under tight deadlines so your plans will have to be tactical and adaptable. Watch out for the wild cards!

You will walk away from this workshop understanding the principles of low traffic neighbourhoods, convinced of the far-reaching benefits achievable using light, quick and cheap interventions and inspired to be able to implement them in your local area.



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