**Ensuring people’s safety in our transport investment**

In October 2022, the Safe System Audit guidelines was launched, and this was a significant key action delivered from the Road to Zero stragety and supports us on our Vision Zero journey.

People and their safety must be at the centre of our transport planning and investment decisions is critical to achieve our Vision Zero aspirations and the Safe System audit guide has a key role in this. As the influence of the transport system is so pervasive that its safety – or lack of safety – affects a wide range of social needs. Road safety – mobility without risk of death or injury - affects health, poverty, equity, the environment, employment, education, gender equality, and the sustainability of communities.

A network of safe roads and streets starts with good planning. Infrastructure is expensive and long lasting, so it is important to get it right. The changes to the document include the name change to Safe System audit, which better reflects the safety outcomes were seeking and are inclusive of all people that access our transport system regardless of their mode of transport.

The Safe System audit plays a critical role in supporting us as system designers translating Safe System principles into action by recognising the different components of how our transport projects influence crash likelihood, risk and injury severity outcomes.

The audit guideline provides an improved approach that applies system level thinking, as well as simplifying two different assessment/audit into a single audit for use throughout the project development lifecycle. This should drive better value for money and improved road safety outcomes.

Since the launch of the guide, we have been reviewing the effectiveness of the changes and how they have or have not influenced client decisions and if our investments are effectively contributing to the safety of our people.