**Learnings from Open Streets Avondale**

Over the course of 2023 Auckland Transport enabled a pilot of Open Streets events in Avondale [OSA], a western suburb of Tāmaki Makaurau. The series hosted a programme of 4 unique experiences closing a main arterial road to cars and opening it to people.

Avondale is undergoing significant housing intensification; however no agency has taken the lead to strategically plan to protect or evolve the strong and active community culture thriving there or to integrate new people as they arrive. While there is a good connection to cycle routes, trains, busses and places to shop, work and live already in place, open space to play is rapidly declining, on both permeable and hard surfaces. This poses the question, when the apartments are finished and the population heaving, when there is car free living and transport enabled, where will local people go to meet and mingle, and are there better ways to manage the road corridors?

The OSA series was created to trial making it easier for local business districts to host festivals and events in their town centres. By making the TMP process more accessible to first time users and creating routine and familiarity in the community when diversifying road corridor uses. With climate change action firmly at the centre, objectives included encouraging mode shift to low carbon emissions transport, and prioritising community leadership, empowering local groups with the tools to continue to hold this style of event beyond the scope of the project. Long term the outcomes hope to influence design of the future road layout and use for this area and to inspire others.

Come and hear the learnings on how these mighty inspirations landed, the good, the bad, and everything in between. Presentation will be followed by a Q&A.