

Safe, Obvious, Step-free: principles for inclusive places

Waka Kotahi Pedestrian Network Guide

Bridget Burdett

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BETTER TRANSPORT • BETTER PLACES • BETTER CHOICES

Why inclusive access?

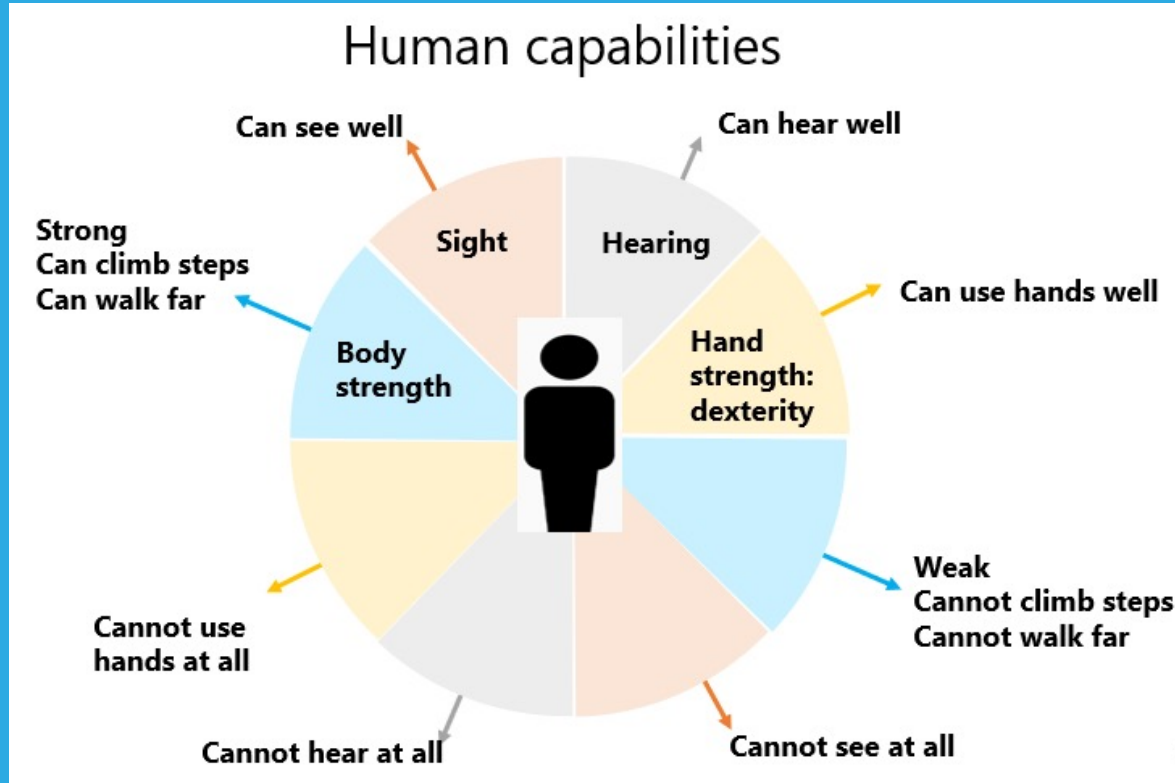
"If it's too hard, and I know it's too hard,
I just stay home. I can't risk being hurt
because I'm not 100% to begin with."

Our towns and cities are **full** of inaccessible infrastructure. This means that some peoples' trips are:

- more difficult
- longer
- more risky

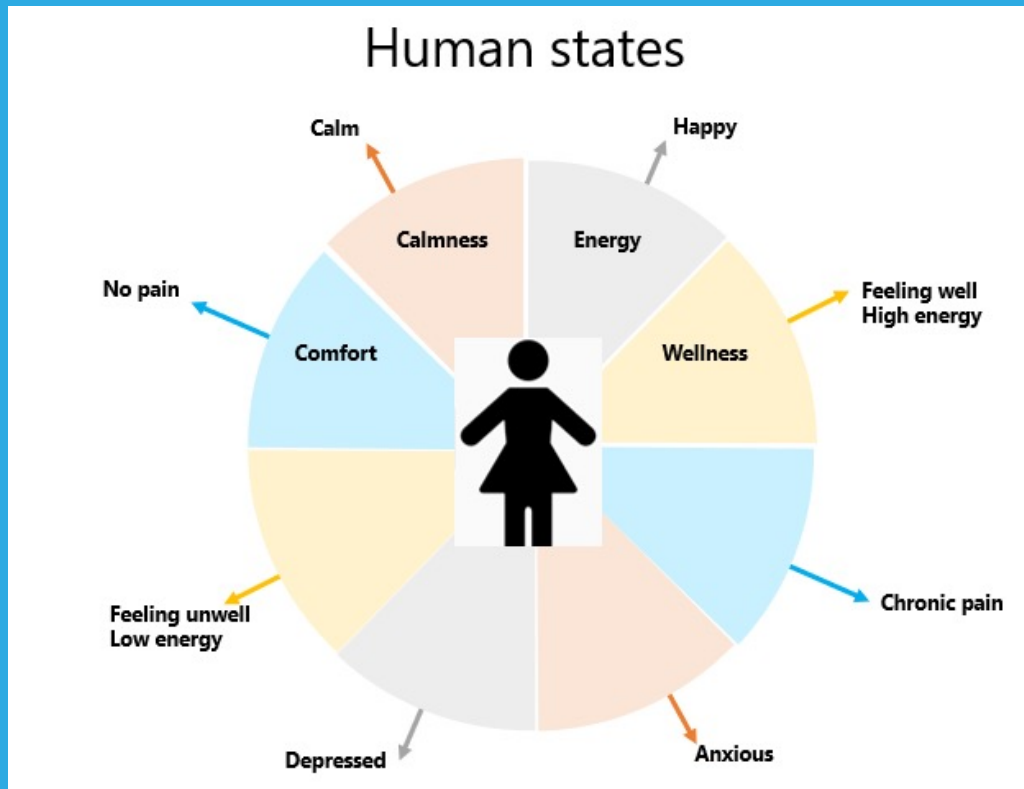
..and often, those trips are **not made** if the effort is too much.

Why inclusive access?



Whose trips are we talking about?

Why inclusive access?



Whose
trips are
we talking
about?

SOS! Principles of inclusive access

An accessible place is

Safe

Obvious

and has

Step-free choices

Safe, Obvious, Step-free choices

Safe

= survivable speeds

= slow *or* separate

Safe includes **feeling safe**



Safe, Obvious, Step-free choices

Safe

= survivable speeds

= slow *or* separate

Safe includes **feeling safe**

Who needs safe choices?

Everyone.

People who find it difficult to move, or who cannot see well or at all, are most sensitive to perceptions of safety. They make longer trips, with more effort, to avoid unsafe situations – or they stay home and sacrifice the opportunity to live their life.

Parents are also very aware of safety when thinking about letting their children walk (or cycle) by themselves.



**We need to stop saying
“there’s a perceived safety problem”**

That statement gives smug transport engineers
an out-clause. They might think
“there’s not a real problem, there are no crashes...”

People feeling unsafe is a real problem.

It stops people walking.
It needs to be addressed with slow, separated, obvious,
step-free walking routes.

Safe, Obvious, Step-free choices

Obvious

- = pedestrians, people on bikes and scooters, car and truck drivers have their place, or are obviously excluded
- = digital, paper, on-street wayfinding that is visual, tactile, audible



Safe, Obvious, Step-free choices

Obvious

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Who needs obvious choices?

Many people find it difficult to navigate streets and places. Some examples include young children, some autistic people, some with learning disabilities, and some people who have had a stroke or other brain injury.

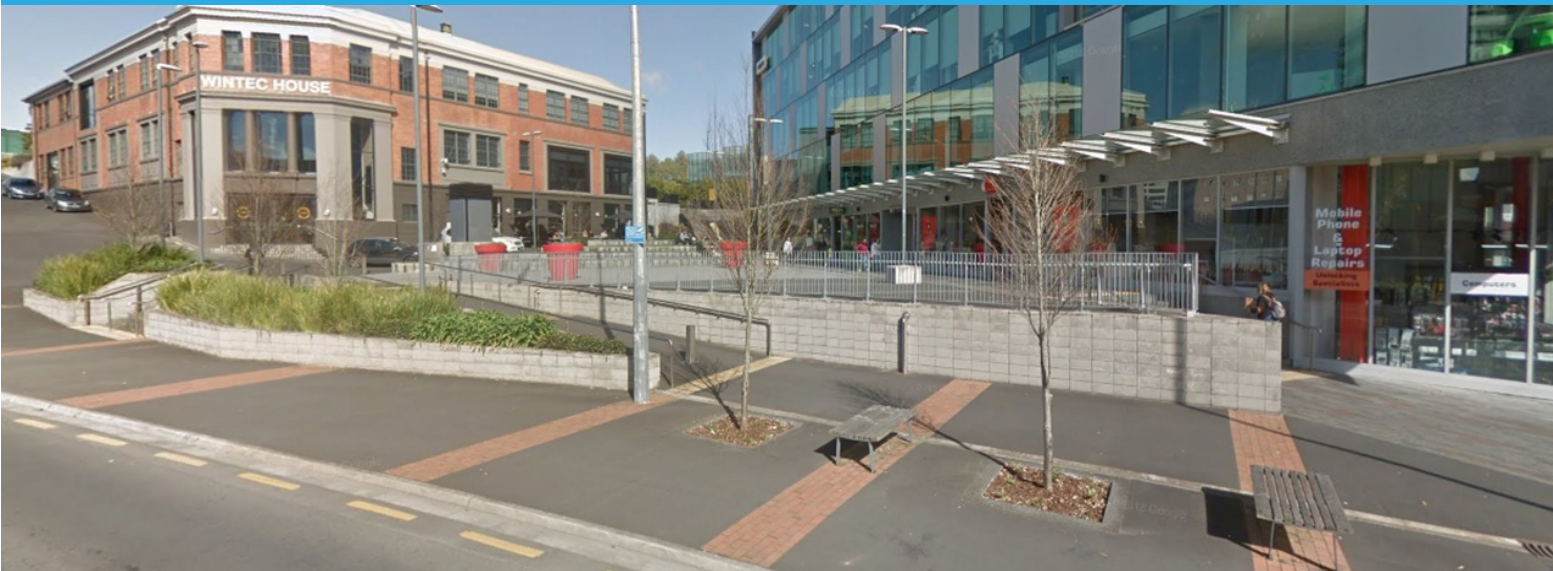
People who are blind or have low vision can not rely on eye contact in shared spaces. They need formal crossing points with pedestrian priority.



Safe, Obvious, Step-free choices

Step-free choices

- = a safe and obvious smooth, step-free, obstacle-free route: no excessive diversions, not 'back doors'
- = a route that people can negotiate independently



Safe, Obvious, Step-free choices

Step-free choices

Who needs step-free choices?

People who use devices with small wheels (wheelchairs, mobility scooters, children's prams, skateboards) and people carting luggage can be stuck or can trip on routes that aren't smooth.

People who are in pain, or who feel sick, and some pregnant women prefer smooth routes and ramps over steps and uneven surfaces.




An inclusive place has safe,
obvious, step-free choices

Victoria Street, Hamilton

sos





Any questions or comments?
bburdett@mrcagney.com
LinkedIn: [bridgetburdett](#)

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