

Summary

This webinar saw Dr Kirsty Wild (University of Auckland) present the key findings of her research paper [Life in a Low Traffic Neighbourhood](#). People reported a range of improvements in their community as a result of reduced traffic volumes during New Zealand's nationwide lockdown in 2020. For example, people noticed the quiet and better air quality and felt less rushed and more connected with nature and their community. Kirsty shared how more diverse people (e.g. women and children) were out on bikes. She also raised the challenge of the growing notion of cars as Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and cars as people's connection to nature.

Kirsty's presentation was followed by a panel discussion on designing streets to enable safer and more liveable neighbourhoods. The panel consisted of Dr Kirsty Wild, Kathryn King (Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency), Greer O'Donnell (The Urban Advisory) and Holly Walker (Helen Clark Foundation), and was facilitated by Kaitlyn Stringer (MoT). The panel discussed a number of topics related to enabling safer and more liveable neighbourhoods, including:

- Street hierarchies, and filtered permeability
- Innovating Streets for People Programme
- Public education and awareness of transport options
- The recommendations in [The Shared Path](#)
- Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
- The importance of a Tika transition (Just Transitions)
- Genuine collaboration and relationships with Māori, iwi and hapū
- Māori and transport research gaps
- The political challenges of street changes
- UK Experimental Traffic Orders
- Integrating transport and housing
- Co-designing streets and neighbourhoods with communities
- Enabling communities that wish to make changes in their neighbourhoods
- Effective youth engagement
- The role of advertising and regulation in behaviour change
- Difficulty of setting temporary speed limits.