

APITM Abstract 2025 – Jeanette Ward, Technical Director, Abley

Balancing competing demands to create vibrant Main Streets

Street design is a collaborative journey involving a range of disciplines. For Main Streets this usually involves a team of passionate professionals from a range of backgrounds. The urban design/landscape architecture and transport engineering perspectives in particular are critical to reflect the place and movement (all modes) aspects of a street. There can be tension around these perspectives, often due to competing demands, that's where collaboration and understanding each other views is important. Further tensions can arise from community expectations.

This presentation will examine three street design projects where there were instances of tension, from within the team and with the community. These tensions were generally balanced with some compromises made but allowing the project outcomes to remain aligned with the objectives. From the transport perspective finding solutions that still align with legal requirements but are also aligned with place outcomes is important. Likewise, landscape solutions that accommodate road safety outcomes but still align with, for example, a biodiversity strategy.

Genuine collaboration within a project team will result in team members learning more about other disciplines. The presentation will share examples of this co-learning and present some challenges to the transport sector to consider when developing vibrant main streets.

For abstract assessors – Here are the three projects I will discuss in the presentation

Project Spotlight: Bridge Street Design, Nelson



Jeanette was initially engaged by the client to support the development of the Bridge Street Linear Park schematic design. This project is part of the Te Ara ō Whakatū Nelson's 30-year city centre vision. As the transport engineer Jeanette provided input into the spatial allocation. Jeanette's team assessed one-way and two-way concepts in terms of alignment with the project objectives. She is now part of the Boffa Miskell Team delivering the design. This involves ongoing collaboration.

Project Spotlight: Invercargill City Centre Streets Upgrade



Jeanette was the transport engineering lead on this project that involved concept detail through to detailed design, and also providing support through the construction phase. The project involved reviewing and refining the cross sections, parking/loading/bus stop arrangements, intersection signal design and tracking, ensuring accessible routes were provided, responding to the safety audit and providing input to the design reports. Esk Street is a one-way shared space street and Don Street is two-way slow speed enhanced street. Construction is now complete.

Project Spotlight: Ashburton Town Centre Streetscape Project



Jeanette led the development of scheme plans for the streets with the core of the Ashburton Town Centre. This involved workshops with staff and elected members, preparing concept designs for consultation, reviewing submissions, attending the Hearing, and developing the final scheme plans. The project presented the opportunity to enhance the walking environment, create cycle network connections and upgrade intersections. Two of the streets were changed to one-way traffic flow to allocate more street space to people and landscaping. Construction is complete.