**Session Title: The Invisible Pedestrian: Intentionally Normalising Walking through a Gender-Focused Lens**

As the result of our COVID-19 lockdown, Aotearoa saw an increase in the number of people walking for recreation and transport. However, walking tends to fall lower on the totem pole of importance and recognition when stacked up against other modes of travel. Increasing the profile of walking is everyone’s business but the creation of a safe walking environment must go beyond the pavement.

As has been well documented, women are good indicators of mode shift. If your city is safe enough for women, it creates a safe environment for everyone. If we are truly looking to move the needle on mode shift, our walking programmes will also need to recognize the need to support the safety of women as they use the public space.

This session will explore:

* Why walking programmes and initiatives are good for everyone e.g. community health indicators
* Understanding how travel needs/patterns and safety concerns can vary based on gender and other qualifying demographics
* Data and examples from the Women in Urbanism’s ‘Stop Street Harassment in Aotearoa’ campaign
* Ideas for creating a walking programme using initiatives that go beyond infrastructure

The session will include interactive exercises with the audience to highlight and further punctate the points of the presentation.