



## Creating new opportunities for mobility is a team sport: lessons learned from the Inclusive Streetscapes project

The 2023 Trafinz conference theme challenges us to think differently in service of a shared aspiration. That is, how do we create new opportunities for mobility, especially when the old state of the art left too many people behind? As a clinician, public health physician, and frequent attendee of TRAFINZ conferences, I am impressed by the passion and commitment of transport professionals to achieve this vision. But as in the health sector, transport systems include a patchwork of historic failures and complex inter-dependent conundrums that have stalled progress in critical areas of concern. How can we harness the collective wisdom, power and imagination you bring to this conference to address these “wicked problems”?

I will respond to this question drawing on the lessons learned from the Inclusive Streetscapes Project. This community-based participatory research, funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand, identified critical factors influencing the opportunities for mobility among disabled people and older people living in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland). What we heard from community participants, particularly kaumatua and disabled or older Pacific people alongside transport professionals, was salutary. It covered the spectrum of the good, the bad and the ugly. More importantly, this research provides hope. It shines a light on the imperative to reframe our thinking and get skilled at asking uncomfortable questions. Questions that lead to challenging but highly rewarding collaborations that can make “new journeys in mobility” a reality for everyone in Aotearoa.