# Inclusive Transport Leaves No one Behind

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| National and regional transport initiatives that aim to actualise the co-benefits of active travel are greatly welcomed. But are these opportunities accessible to everyone? And to what extent might the implementation of the vision deviate from the needs and aspirations of people differently challenged by transport systems due to advancing age, chronic health conditions, or disability? These questions stimulated the conduct of the *Inclusive Streetscapes* project, funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand. The project was designed to:* Explore the lived experiences of people with disability and older citizens, particularly with regard to street and transport system characteristics influencing their mobility, resilience, health and wellbeing;
* Understand the influences on decision-making by transport professionals with regard to age- and disability-friendly policies and practices; and
* Consider the implications for inclusive and equitable transport policies that respond to the needs of disabled people and older citizens.

The community-based participatory research study undertaken in four case study sites in Auckland gathered and analysed in-depth data from 62 community members differently challenged by street and transport environments; information from over 200 transport professionals who participated in a web-based survey or key informant interviews; and an integrative review of transport accessibility measures and indicators. While our analyses identified several challenges in common, there were important variations in the qualitative lived experiences and responses in different communities participating in this project with significant implications from an equity and social justice perspective. We also found striking parallels and variations in understandings and practices relating to accessibility from the perspectives of transport professionals. The findings of this project speak to the importance of reaching communities to engage in their own terms, and the need for transformative changes in the way we prioritise, design, implement, and monitor transport systems that are accessible for all. |