



Working with what we have

Resilience for the Future

Whakamahinga ki ngā mea kei a tātou:
He manawaroa mō ngā rā anamata
Transportation Conference 2026



8 – 11 March 2026
Tākina Convention Centre
Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington



Development response – delivering through change in urban environments

The conference theme invites us to look deeply at what transport in New Zealand could be doing better today to ensure a more resilient tomorrow.

In this keynote we chat about a key area that is often underestimated or left too late in projects but is a genuine opportunity to better manage risks and build in resilience – development response.

A development response is the coordinated planning and implementation of tools to mitigate and strategically manage the impact of construction on people and place. We will share some thoughts on how we need to be smarter at doing this as major transport projects increasingly occur in higher density urban environments.

We need to get better at having conversations about how to mitigate the disruptive effects of construction, including honesty about the scale of impacts, costs as well as the benefits of proper planning and strategic management this project phase. A key lesson from both overseas and local projects is that constant attempts to minimise disruption can in fact have the opposite effect.

We will explore the idea of a design lead development response which considers the implications of disruptions much earlier to feed into detailed design, the development of construction methodologies and the coordinate of TTMPs. An approach that will pick up challenges earlier and address them in a more cost-effective manner.

Development response is also a real opportunity to proactively engage with the affected communities and trial innovation to build resilience, regenerate our urban environments and mitigate risk.