



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



## Maximising Delivery whilst Minimising Disruption: Lessons from TREC

**Session Stream:** Operations, Management & Maintenance

**Preferred Presentation Format:** Oral or Soapbox

**Presenter:** Jack Chipperfield (Open Plan)

### **Abstract (299 words):**

Our critical transport infrastructure is under more pressure than ever before. Our infrastructure deficit is increasing, and extreme weather events are becoming increasingly common in the face of climate change. Addressing our infrastructure deficit, responding to states of emergency, and maintaining our existing infrastructure will require larger and larger programmes of work on our key transport corridors. How do we deliver these programmes of work with as little disruption as possible? How do we enable our communities to live their lives without being tormented by delays?

Over the last two years, Open Plan have been involved in the Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) alliance, supporting the recovery efforts in Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle. Our role? Advising TREC on network operations.

Predicting, monitoring, and reporting disruption is not new to Aotearoa. However, this analysis has historically been done manually. This meant it was slow, lacking detail, and reactive – receive a locked-in programme of works, predict delays, and communicate. With TREC's large works programme, disruption analysis needed to be fast, detailed, and proactive. Our solution? Automated tools. By largely automating our analysis, we could predict delays quickly and far into the future. Our analysis could then be used proactively for scenario-testing during programme development, helping TREC to smooth delays over time, i.e. maximising the recovery work undertaken whilst minimising frustrating variability in delays to road users.

We would like to draw upon our TREC experience to explore how our industry, in the face of growing programmes of work, can more efficiently and effectively manage disruption on our key transport corridors. We believe that large programmes of work don't have to result in extensive disruption and frustrated communities – we'd love to share our two cents on enabling a more resilient future for transport networks in Aotearoa.