# Te Ara Mua – Future Streets. Results from a six-year controlled intervention study to make walking and cycling safer and easier.

Te Ara Mua – Future Streets is a controlled before-after study of a neighbourhood street retrofit in Māngere, Auckland. With a focus on community well-being, the project aimed to make walking and cycling safer and easier, and also reflect cultural identity. Following substantial community engagement, changes included improved pathways, landscaping, crossings, cycle-lanes, and mana whenua design elements.

Measures included traffic speed/counts, road user interactions, traffic crashes/casualties, walking and cycling change, air quality, neighbourhood resident perceptions, and reported physical activity. Qualitative research was also carried out to better understand the barriers and enablers to delivering Future Streets.

This paper presents the first round of outcome measures. Residents report that crossing roads in Māngere Central is now much easier and safer, which is supported by fewer dangerous interactions between pedestrians and vehicles, and a greater number of people with mobility aids using crossings. Modal speeds across treated streets are now 35 km/h compared with 50 km/h before the changes. Accordingly, there has been a 23% reduction in deaths and serious injuries per month, compared with a 59% increase in the nearby control area. There have been no DSi’s on treated streets over the past two years.

Footpaths and accesses to the mall are viewed positively, particularly for those with disabilities. Conversely, there are mixed views of the separated cycle lanes. Community perceptions of safety and social cohesion have improved compared with the control area and cycling use is also increasing relative to the control area, although absolute increases are limited at this stage.

Overall, the results are consistent with the intervention logic for the project. More time, further connections, developing cycling, and addressing stray dogs and safety fears, will help develop a culture of active travel in Māngere. Further research will help to understand longer-term trends.

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