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Top 10 road designs at odds with Safe System principles

This paper shares findings from an analysis of 200 recent Safe System Audits in New Zealand and Road Safety Audits/Safe System Assessments in Australia. The work categorised issues based on their departure from Safe System principles, frequency of occurrence in road designs reviewed and the associated trauma magnitude of the issue for specific crash types or road user groups. The outcome is concise 'top 10' list of common issues in road and street design that do not align well with Safe System principles, and what alternative treatments or methods could be used to improve Safe System alignment and reduce future road trauma.

This work also highlights the importance of undertaking Safe System Audits on road and street designs and emphasises their role in helping clients understand road safety implications and alignment with the Safe System.

This technical presentation presents the 'top 10' issues with examples and case studies. It aims to draw attention to prevalent design issues, encouraging industry professionals to address these challenges and enhance their understanding of Safe System thinking, contributing to ongoing improvements in road safety practices in New Zealand.

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