# Applying healthy streets audits

The design of our urban environment has a significant impact on the health of our communities. It is recognised that keeping active can address many of the key health issues we face including obesity, ageing communities and contributing to our overall health and wellbeing.

Transport for London introduced the healthy streets approach in 2017 to create an environment that allows people of all ages and abilities to choose to walk, cycle and use public transport more often. Using 10 key indicators ranging from places where people feel safe to providing shade and shelter, this process involved auditing the existing street environment and proposed design changes to achieve a more people focused design outcome.

How can applying a healthy streets approach contribute to an equitable transport environment? Based on experience of applying the Transport for London ‘Healthy Streets Audit’ in the New Zealand context, this session is focused on providing practitioners with guidance on how applying the tool can be beneficial to good design outcomes for all. What is a good healthy street score for New Zealand? How does it relate to the existing street type and road function?

The audit process is used to assess New Zealand based examples and identify how scores can be improved with design changes. We provide examples of small and moderately priced changes to the streetscape that can improve the healthy streets outcome. We also show what a ‘healthy’ and ‘unhealthy’ street looks like using the existing framework. We will discuss how well this might align with what communities, local businesses and professionals involved in developing schemes think is a healthy street? Is this what we would like to see more of in New Zealand?