**Age- and Disability-friendly Streetscapes promoting inclusive mobility and participation**

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**Introduction:** Meaningful participation in community life is vital to the wellbeing of people of all ages and abilities. The streets where we live – their design, transport opportunities, accessibility, and perceived safety - can be potent facilitators or barriers to how older people interact with their communities. A systematic review of the published literature (Yen et al, 2014) has identified that concerns regarding traffic safety and exposure to crime as the two principal factors inhibiting mobility and social participation of older people.

**Research Summary**: Although pedestrians account for less than 20% of road deaths and road-injury related hospitalisations in New Zealand, age-specific rates of pedestrian deaths and hospitalisations are highest among older people. A recent systematic review (Yen et al, 2014) identified concerns regarding traffic safety and exposure to crime as the two principal factors inhibiting mobility and social participation of older people. Yet, the needs of older people beyond issues for older drivers are relatively invisible in transport plans.

**Future directions:** At a time when Auckland’s population is growing and diversifying in unprecedented ways and long-overdue policies promoting “active travel” are gathering momentum, our proposed research plan addresses the following:

* In what ways do evolving streetscapes and ‘leading edge’ transport initiatives in urban New Zealand interact with opportunities that older residents and people living with disabilities have to participate meaningfully in social life, enjoy health and wellbeing, make sense of their neighbourhoods, and live the lives they value?
* Can their diverse experiences, cultural values, resilience and aspirations for community participation be enhanced while mitigating concerns regarding safety and social exclusion?

Our goal is to inform inclusive transport plans that enable older people to expand their capability and freedom to live the lives they value in vibrant and resilient communities.