



Caring for our children through neighbourhood street design

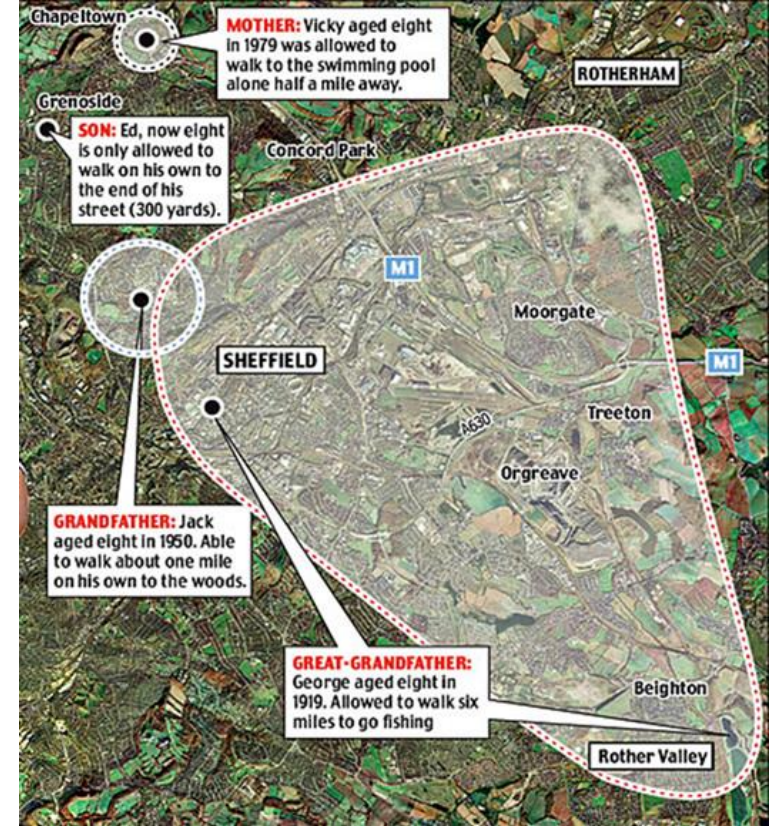
Karen Witten

Massey University

Transportation Group, Tauranga, 29th March 2023

Transport and children's wellbeing

- Taha tinana (physical health)
- Taha hinengaro (mental and emotional well-being)
- Taha whānau (social well-being)
- Taha wairua (spiritual well-being)



How children lost the right to roam in four generations
By DAVID DERBYSHIRE

Transport contributes to children's wellbeing

- Taha tinana (physical health)
physical activity
- Taha hinengaro (mental and emotional well-being)
freedom to explore, experience nature, environmental competency and navigational skills, 'constructive hope'
- Taha whānau (social well-being)
play and friendship, learning from encounters, sense of belonging to place
- Taha wairua (spiritual well-being)
experiencing nature, seeing 'our faces in our places'



Wild K, Woodward A (2021) The bicycle as 'constructive hope': children, climate and active transport, *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, 57

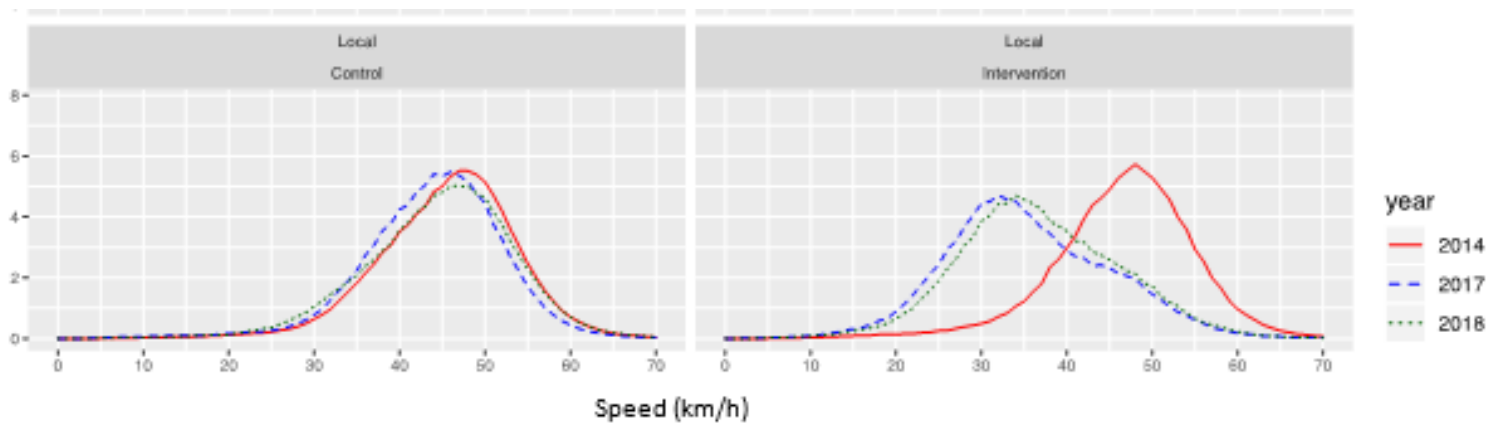
Children's neighbourhood third spaces

- Destinations
 - parks, playgrounds, shops, libraries
- Threshold spaces
 - liminal zones between homes and the street – driveways, verges, trees
- Transitory spaces
 - routes between places – footpaths and alleyways



Safe transitory neighbourhood spaces

- Traffic calming measures
- Safer crossings



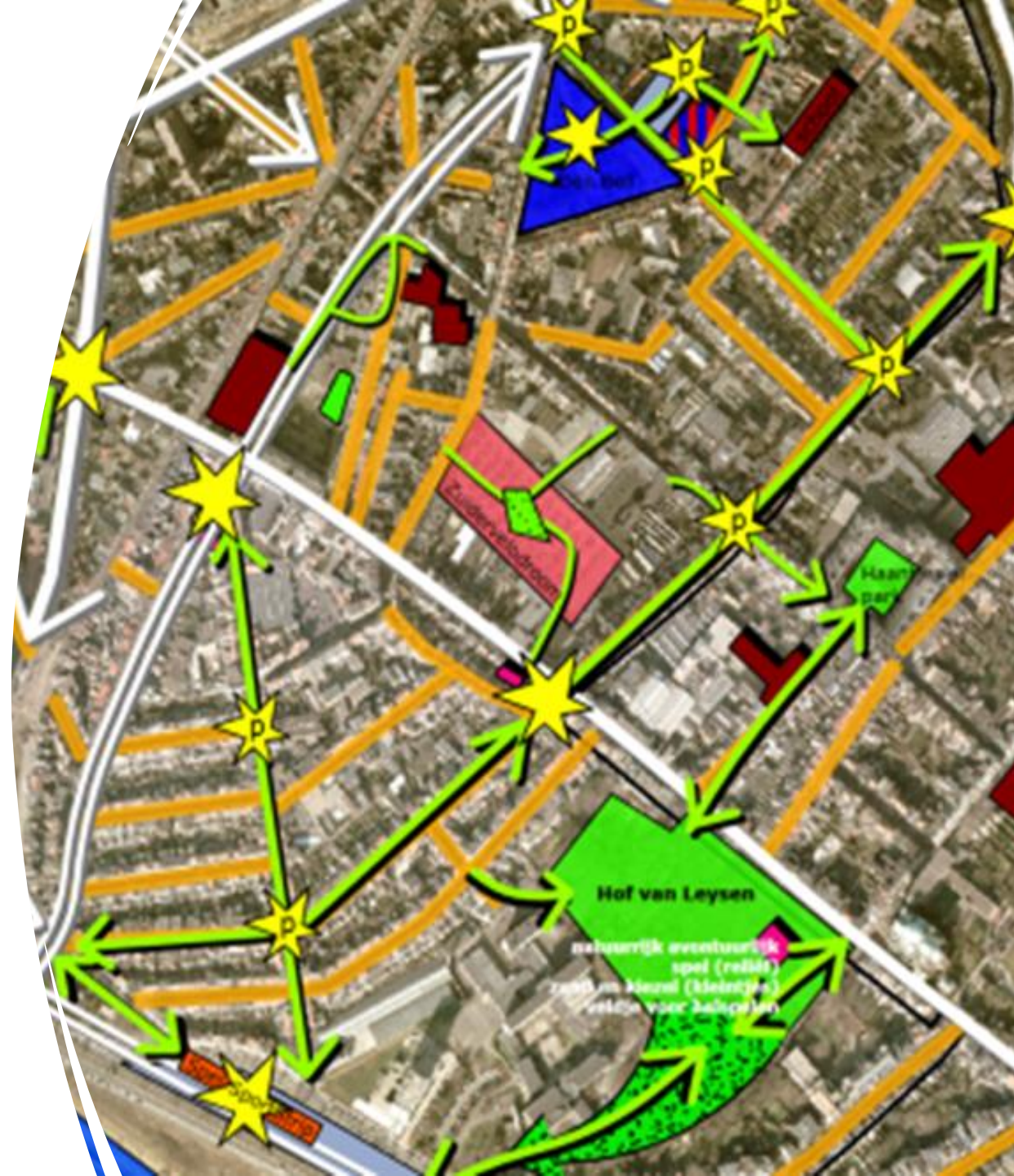
Hosking J, Mackie H, et al (2023) Effects of Te Ara Mua – Future Streets Suburban Street Retrofit on Traffic Speed and Volume: Controlled Before-After Study, Transport & Health





Antwerp playweb plan

- A playspace masterplan – integrates play and mobility opportunities into neighbourhood design
- Kids identify significant formal and informal play spaces
- Collaboration - transport planners, urban planners, schools, local officials and children & parents
- On the routes between playspaces - traffic calming, improved walking & cycling infrastructure, playful elements





Playful neighbourhood streets



Playful neighbourhood streets



Whānau Ātea
Māngere Maunga
Tūpuna Maunga Authority
Boffa Miskell

Playful streets Aotearoa

“...when you get to the pointy end of things, that's when people need to bite the bullet and actually think through, for instance, what's the cost share? What principles are we going to apply to this, so that there's a kind of fair outcome? But to be honest, at the moment, it's all fairly case by case. And I don't think it should be like that.”

Equity in play space access

- After school access to school grounds
- Formal sports vs street play opportunities
 - children at higher decile school 2 trips per week for formal sports, children in lower decile schools .5 trips per week
 - children in lower decile schools 2x the trips to park/street play as peers in higher decile schools





To conclude

The wellbeing of children across all dimensions of Te Whare Tapa Wha can be nurtured, or undermined, by the design of their neighbourhood streets.

