

## Safety and Shared Spaces



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## Introduction

- ◆ IPENZ Transportation Group Study Award
- ◆ What Are Shared Spaces?
- ◆ Existing Design Guidance
- ◆ The Challenges
- ◆ Working Through the Challenges
- ◆ Conclusions

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## IPENZ Study Award



- ◆ Aims to Develop a "Best Practice" design Guide for Shared Spaces
- ◆ Three Stages:
  1. Literature review and discussions with NZ Practitioners and interest groups
  2. Visits to existing schemes in NZ and overseas
  3. Write up and presentation of findings

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## What Are Shared Spaces?

- ◆ Streetscape design philosophy aimed at improving pedestrian amenity in public streets
- ◆ Remove or reduce separation between pedestrians and vehicles
- ◆ Remove or reduce traffic control devices
- ◆ Reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety through removing vehicle priority
- ◆ Created uncertainty and encourages eye contact

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## Existing Design Guides

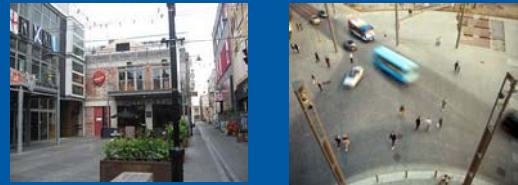
No specific design guides for shared space schemes but some guidance provided in:

- ♦ RTA Shared Traffic Zones (1987)
- ♦ RTA Sharing The Main Street (2000)
- ♦ NZTA Pedestrian Planning and Design Guide (2007)
- ♦ Austroads Design Guides (2009)
- ♦ NSCC Design Of Streets (2010)
- ♦ Overseas Guides such as Link and Place, Manual for Streets in the UK



## The Challenges – Vehicle Volumes

Large variance in existing advice on suitable traffic volumes for shared space schemes:

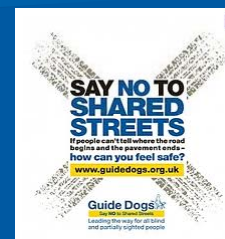


## The Challenges - Intersections

Lack of existing advice on incorporating intersections in shared space schemes.



## The Challenges – Vulnerable Users



## The Challenges – Signs and Markings

- ◆ Shared Space recommends removing or reducing traffic control devices
- ◆ Signs and markings in a road environment must meet the TCD Rule (2004)
- ◆ Potential conflicts include regulation of speed, priority controls and parking

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## The Challenges – Speed Management

Traditional LATM principles Vs shared space principles



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## The Challenges - Risk

Accepting different levels of risk can be challenging in safety auditing.

*"In the safety audit process there is a safety paradox in the design of shared space schemes as human risk compensation is essential to understanding why shared space principles work."* (Shared Space Project, 2005)

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## Summary

- ◆ Vehicle Volumes
- ◆ Intersections
- ◆ Vulnerable users
- ◆ Signs and Markings (including thresholds)
- ◆ Speed management
- ◆ Risk

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