

Shared Space – Auckland – Operational Safety Study

Bruno Royce

Traffic Engineering Solutions Ltd, Auckland

Traffic Engineering Solutions, Ltd (TES) undertook an operational safety review of Shared Spaces in the Auckland CBD, at the request of Auckland Transport. The aim of the study was to review Shared Spaces with respect to their safety record and operational performance from a transportation and public perspective, and to consider how well the design elements within the spaces were performing to enable the safe and appropriate use of these areas. The study included site surveys and an international literature review.

The five Shared Spaces reviewed in this study were generally considered to be operating reasonably successfully in terms of safety and operational performance. However, excessive traffic speeds (around 25km/h 85thtile) were evident at two Shared Spaces. Also, traffic volumes were considered higher than desirable (above 3,000 vehicles/day) at two Shared Spaces.

Excessive traffic speeds and volumes are a key factor adversely affecting pedestrian safety and amenity within a Shared Space. Reducing both traffic speeds and traffic volumes is important for achieving a fully successful outcome for a Shared Space.

Various measures have been recommended to reduce traffic speeds and volumes within the Shared Spaces. These remedial measures would be expected to enhance safety and operational performance in the existing Shared Spaces, and should also be considered for incorporation into future Shared Spaces.