Measuring Walkability

- Consumer Satisfaction Surveys -







# What is Walkability?

- It is not the "performance of walking" i.e. John Clease
- It is the "performance of the environment when walking"
- Performance:

inviting, functional, safe, aesthetic, secure, comfort, convenience, continuity, system coherence, compliance, accessible, pleasant, legible, people populated, legal, seductive, social interaction, convivial, connected...

• Walkability: the extent to which the built environment is walking friendly





# How is walking improved at the moment?

Practitioners consider important:

73% engineering compliance
71% community perception
68% accessibility
65% safety from traffic
56% personal security
49% urban design
45% cleanliness

Local Authority prioritisation:

25% use judgement 23% significant public influence 17% politically determined 15% benefit/cost 14% other <u>6%</u> don't prioritise 100%

These lists are not complementary





# Provision vs. quality



What is this?



Is it basically this? Photo Source: Living Streets (UK)





### Do we always get quality right?



#### add 117 years of (so called) 'improvements' to Reading UK

Photo Source: Intelligent Space Partnership





# How do you measure walkability?

- Walkability is very difficult to measure because it is based on consumer satisfaction i.e. people
- "Count what is countable...measure what is measurable... What is not measurable, make measurable" Galileo - (February 15, 1564 – January 8, 1642)
  - "I'm ¾ happy today"
  - ...but what questions do I ask myself to determine happiness?
  - ...do I want to be more 'happy' than 'content'?
  - …if I'm ¾ happy, are you?
  - …what would make me more happy?



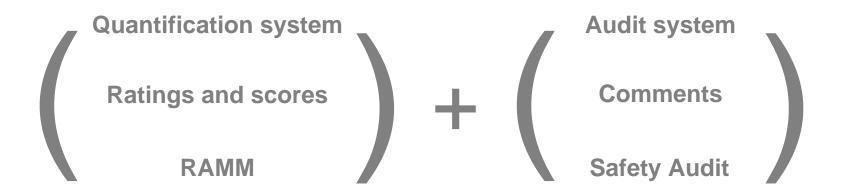


What we've done...(part 1)























### How it might be published tomorrow...







How it works...

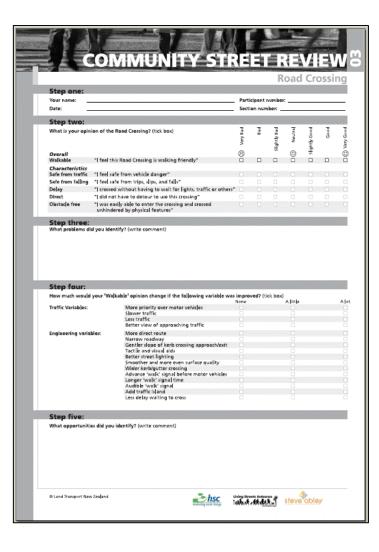
- Minimum group of 5 participants, minimum age 15 years, no max age
- "Path lengths" and "Road Crossings"
- 4 types of user groups
  - Not impaired can see, are mobile
  - Mobility impaired can see are not mobile
  - Sight impaired can not see are mobile
  - Sight and mobility impaired can not see, are not mobile
- There are groups within groups
- Have to do a lot more collecting of data (Land Transport NZ)
- Have to make level of service calculations easy





# Two main forms...

Overall     69     7     2     <		Good	lightly Good		iber: _	on num	_ Sect			Your name:
Step two:         What is your opinion of the Section? (tick box)         To are all         Walkable         "I feel this Path Length is walking friendly"         Characteristics         Safe from traffic danger"         Safe from traffic danger         I feel asle from traffic danger         Bistade free         "I was able to move around unhindered by physical features"         Efficient         "I was not impedied by others"         Pleasant         Pleasant		č	lightly Good	Nected						
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Step four: How much would your 'Walkable' opinion change if the following variable was improved? (Lick box) None A Little Tarffic Variables: More priority over motor vehicle:	,			A little	ck box)	ved? (ti		More priority over motor vehicles	your 'Walk	How much would
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# Road Crossing example

Step one:								
Your name:	Steve Abley	Part	icipant	numbe	r:′	12		
Date:	Saturday 4 Nov 2006	Sect	ion nun	nber: _		B		
Step two:								
-	ion of the Section? (tick box)	Very Bad	Bad	Slightly Bad	Neutra	Slightly Good	Good	Very Good
Overall		$\otimes$		S	$\odot$	Slic		$\odot$
Walkable	"I feel this Path Length is walking friendly"							
Characteristics								
Safe from traffic	"I feel safe from traffic danger"							
Safe from falling	"I feel safe from trips, slips, and falls"							
Obstacle free	"I was able to move around unhindered by physical features"							
Secure	"I feel safe from intimidation or physical attack"							
Efficient	"I was not impeded by others"							
Pleasant	"I enjoyed being in this place, to interact with others and it wasn't just for movement"							





# Road Crossing example (cont)

#### Step three:

What problems did you identify? (write comment)

#### Hurt when I fell into big pothole

**Step four:** 

How much would your 'Wa	kable' opinion change if the following variable v	was improved?	(tick box)	
_		None	Alittle	A lot
Traffic Variables:	More priority over motor vehicles			
	More separation from roadway			
	Fewer cyclists or skateboarders etc			
	Better view of vehicles crossing path			
	Less traffic			
Engineering Variables:	More direct route			
	Gentler side slope across path			
	Gentler slope along path and or no steps			
	More or better tactile and visual aids			
	Better street lighting			
	Smoother and more even surface quality			

#### **Step five:**

What opportunities did you identify? (write comment)

# Thought planters were nice but tulips would be better





# Walkability descriptors

Level of Service C	comparisions
Opinion	
🛈 Very Good	_
Good	_
Slightly Good	_
🕒 Neutral	_
Slightly Bad	_
Bad	-
😣 Very Bad	





### Walk21 Melbourne (only last week)



#### Flinders Street











#### Collins Street









# Problems

#### Street A

- Noisy
- Rubbish
- Narrow footpath
- Uneven footpath
- Driveways
- Not sufficient street life
- Obstacles
- Holes in footpath
- Closed up buildings
- Road works
- Polluted (suspect emissions)
- Broken glass
- Too many levels
- Overhead safety



#### Street B

- Noisy
- Litter
- Footway width varies
- Surface variations
- Lots of vehicles
- No one stopping to enjoy
- Lots of people



# **Opportunities**

#### Street A

- Public art on walls
- Open up buildings
- Lanes could be more interesting
- Better view of driveway vehicles
- Wider footpath
- Resurface area
- Shade
- More control of construction site

#### Street B

- Public art
- Volume on the iHub
- More public seating
- More greenery
- Tourist signage
- Better control of café dining areas
- Drinking fountains





# Level of Service

#### Flinders Street (Street A)

E Walkability

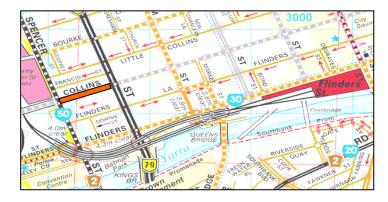






- B
  - 8 Walkability

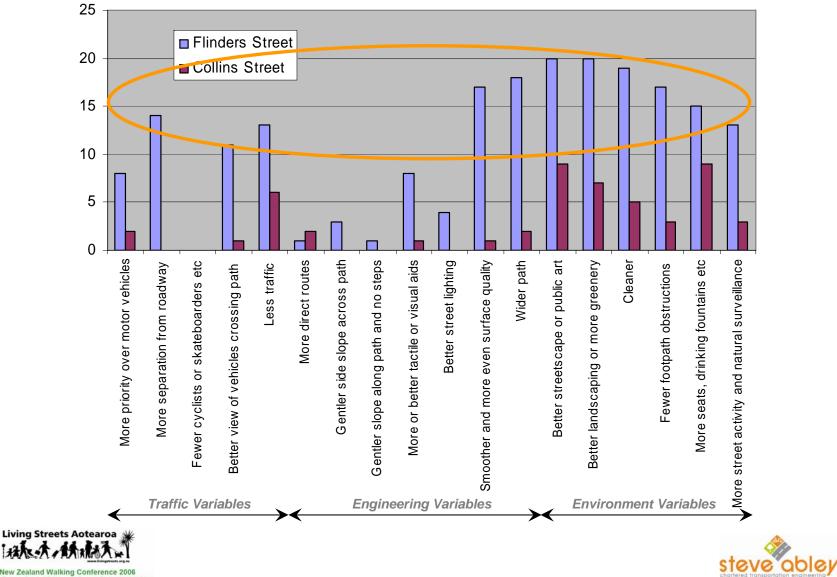








### What variables and how much improvement?



New Zealand Walking Conference 2006 Getting There on Foot in NZ Cities and Towns - Taking the Next Steps

# Community Street Reviews

- Are <u>strongly</u> supported by Land Transport New Zealand
- Need promotion practitioners need to understand usefulness
- Are labour <u>intensive</u> but not necessarily <u>expensive</u>
- Need experienced operators (especially when so new)
- Used as transportation planning tool doesn't replace thinking







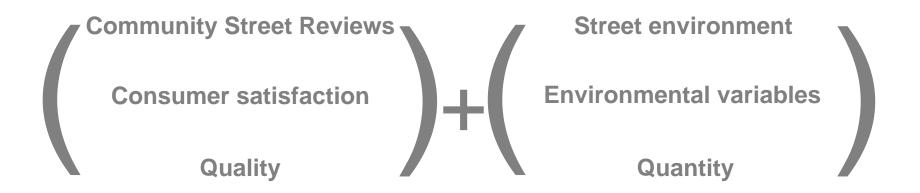




What we've done...(part 2)





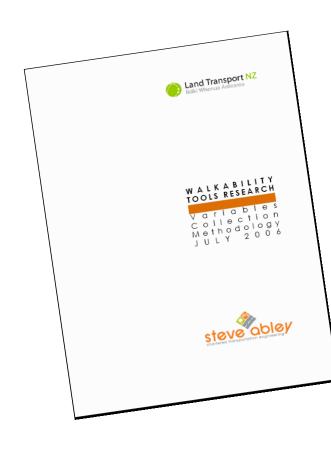


Mathematical model to infer Community Street Reviews





# Variables in the environment





- Effective width
- Footpath cross fall
- Footpath longitudinal fall
- Area adjacent
   footpath walkable
- Adjacent land use
- Footpath materials
- Deviation around obstacles
- Source of smells
- Quantity of litter
- Stumbling hazards
- Height of buildings
- Distance from moving vehicles
- Quantity of greenery
- Shared path
- Directional information

- Posted speed limit
- Street activity
- Road width
- Vandalism
- Detritus
- Temporary hazards
- Weather
- Vehicle speed
- Density of people
- Comfort features
- Utility features
- Trip hazards
- Tactile aids
- On street parking
- Use of vehicle access
   ways
- Visibility to driveways
- Designed steps
- Protection from hazards



# Measuring the environment























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# Tasks to do...

- Finish main CSR methodology document (in conjunction with LTNZ)
- Complete data entry and validation (contract end of Part 2)
- Undertake mathematical model development to infer CSR (by others)
- Promote Community Street Reviews (real end of Part 1)
- Promote mathematical model (real end of Part 2)
- Energise practitioners and provide training on walkability issues





# Questions?

Walkability: the extent to which the built environment is walking friendly



It <u>is not</u> the "performance of walking" It <u>is</u> the "performance of the environment <u>when</u> walking"



