



# DOUBLE THE FEET ON THE STREET

NZ Walking Conference 2008

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<b>Presentation topic</b>	<b>Neighbourhood walkability tools</b>		
<b>Presentation title</b>	Neighbourhood walkability: developing tools to measure infrastructural and experiential factors associated with walking for transport and walking for leisure		
<b>Presentation Style</b>	<b>Presentation</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Workshop / Walkshop</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Estimated Time Required</b>	0-10 mins <input type="checkbox"/>	10-20 mins <input type="checkbox"/>	20-30 mins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Abstract Remit</b> (500 word maximum)			
<p>The URBAN study (Understanding the Relationship Between physical Activity and Neighbourhoods) is investigating how neighbourhood differences in the walkability of the built environment are associated with variation in physical activity patterns and body size of residents. Walkability is a multilayered concept. There is evidence that attributes at the infrastructure level such as street connectivity, access to destinations, dwelling density, and the ratio of residential to commercial and industrial space in a neighbourhood contribute to walkability. In addition many features at the street level such as footpath quality, lighting, access to nature, the maintenance of verges and gardens and the legibility of neighbourhood streets have been associated with residents walking behaviour. For the URBAN study team to reliably measure the multiple attributes associated with neighbourhood walkability required the development of specific tools.</p> <p>This presentation will discuss the development, application, strengths and limitations of two tools used in the URBAN study: a GIS based walkability index and a tool to audit the characteristics of the neighbourhood streetscape. Both measures are being applied to neighbourhoods in Christchurch, Waitakere and North Shore cities in 2008 and 2009. The methodology for calculating the GIS-based walkability index will be outlined along with issues encountered in accessing data and calculating the index. Likewise the challenges encountered in fine tuning the content of the streetscape audit tool will be covered including the use of photovoice techniques to explore the applicability of the tool to capture the walkability experiences of different population groups living in different neighbourhood environments. This presentation will be followed by a linked presentation on the use of photovoice to understand diversity in the experience of walkability for children and adults living in different places.</p>			
<b>Author Profile</b>			
<p>Suzanne Mavoa is a GIS Analyst / Researcher at the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation. Her research interests include accessibility and the relationship between the environment and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Karen Witten is Associate Professor at the Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation. Her research interests centre on interactions between the physical characteristics of neighbourhoods and cities and the social relationships, health and sustainability -related practices of the people living in them.</p>			