

Bursting with Stride!

Understanding the perceptions of walkability in Central North Christchurch for older adults

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Do our streets cater for all?

Christchurch City Council is currently looking at ways to revive and densify its city centre.

By planning for aging adults, public space is improved for everyone.

New Zealand also has an ageing population with 1 in 4 Central Christchurch residents are over 55¹.

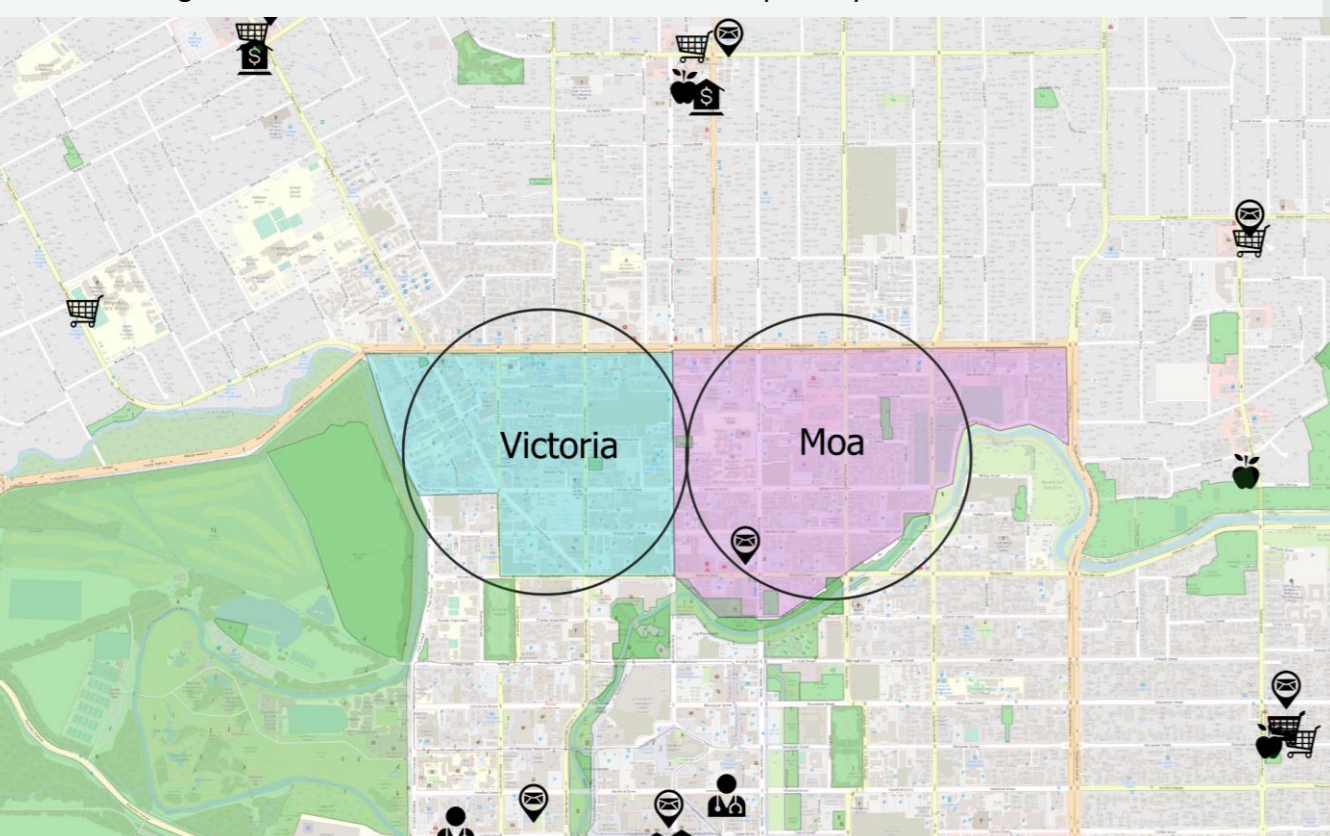
By developing walkable streets, Christchurch can create neighbourhoods that are attractive to new residents and care for existing ones.

Our research

We wanted to find out what is the perceived walkability for residents 55+ and what walkability factors attract or deter older people to reside in Moa and Victoria neighbourhoods (Northern Central City Christchurch).

We collected information from 40 surveys and two interviews.

This map shows the research neighbourhoods and primary amenities (including banks, doctors, post offices, grocery stores and supermarkets). The circles represent 400m walking diameters - the recommended distance for primary amenities.



Walkability

"The extent to which the built environment is friendly to the presence of people living, shopping, visiting, enjoying or spending time in an area"²

What did we find?

People value walking



Walkability was a factor in **choosing this neighbourhood** for 9 out of 10 of people



Two thirds have **lived in the neighbourhood for more than 5 years**



85% spend at least **20 mins a day walking**



Almost all residents (97%) **see and speak to others** when out walking

Motivators



Hagley Park, Ōtākaro Avon River and other green spaces



Seeing neighbours and **catching up with friends**



Health and recreation



Popular mode of transport for getting to destinations

But amenity access is low...



1 in 3 don't find it **easy to walk to local shops**



Almost half (43%) can't do most of their **errands at local shops**



One-third **drive for daily errands**



Many mention a lack of local shops, especially grocery stores

...and there are physical barriers



Poorly maintained, narrow and missing footpaths



E-scooters and bikes being used and left on footpaths



Signs, bins, parked cars and other **obstacles on footpaths**



Traffic and crossing **busy streets**



Dissatisfaction with the **bus network**

What factors will increase walkability - making Central Christchurch more attractive to new residents?



Increased availability of **primary amenities** to ensure they are within 400 m of resident's homes



More efficient and affordable public transport systems including reinstatement of free **electric shuttle**



Create bumping and gathering spaces to foster **community connection**



Prioritise safe networks - designed for **ease of pedestrians**

To retain residents, Christchurch City Council should design for walkability because walkable streets free us from dependence on cars by creating equitable access to amenities and safe, vibrant communities that foster hauora.

So what?

When streets are more walkable, Ōtautahi will be a popular place to grow older while fostering collective resilience in the face of climate change.

Acknowledgements

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References: ¹ Stats New Zealand: Tātauranga Aotearoa, 2018. *Census of Population and Dwellings, 2018*. Statistics New Zealand. Retrieved May 15, from <https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-place-summaries/>

² Abley S, 2005. *Walkability Scoping Paper*. Abley Transportation Consultants, Christchurch New Zealand.