

## **Getting Children Riding Again - Making Local Streets Safer for Cycling**

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### **Abstract**

Local streets have traditionally been the proving ground for most urban bicycle trips – particularly among children. With the increase in car ownership over the years, more children are driven to schools and less are riding, even though distances are frequently less than 2km. This decline is due to a number of factors including: safety fears (real and perceived), lack of separated infrastructure, driver attitudes towards cyclists and speed. Councils need to adopt a multi-faceted approach to reclaiming local streets for active travel for the whole community.

### **Issues, Opportunities and Tools**

Separating cyclists from traffic is typically the goal in most municipalities. It is true that this separation generally affords the greatest safety benefit to riders and can maximise the range of users supported by the facility. More often than not however, the luxury of space is not available to provide such facilities – particularly in local residential neighbourhoods which are the training grounds for most cycling trips.

It is, therefore, appropriate and pertinent to ensure that the local streets within our neighbourhoods are safe places to nurture and develop confident young riders. To achieve this, there must be a combination of measure that include modifying driver perceptions to positively view sharing of the road with riders, implementing area-wide speed limits (30km/h) consistent with international best practice, providing safe routes to schools (low traffic streets), altering the street network to provide direct routes and encouraging more functional riding trips (e.g. to school, shops, restaurants entertainment).

This presentation will consider some of the tools available to encourage more riding in mixed traffic environments in the local street network where many bicycle trips originate from. This will include the concept of filtered permeability, speed management, line marking options and bicycle parking at destinations.