

# TANDEM



## Auckland Conversations transcript 27th May 2021

- Sorry, welcome to the wonderful people, I won't name you by name. Also welcome to all the wonderful people that are joining us online. It's wonderful to have you out there in the future. My name is Frith Walker and I'll be facilitating our conversation here this evening. It's a great delight to be here. It's a strange thing to be on the stage. I've spent many times in the audience enjoying these conversations. So it's wonderful to see you all here tonight.

- Oh, that's a good idea, Gary. Gary's the man at the back. Auckland Conversations as you know, provides us an opportunity to inspire and stimulate your thinking about the challenges facing our fine city. Tonight we're going to be joined by a panel of passionate experts who'll raise the profile of the city centre master plan. And our great hope is that we will increase young people's understandings of the plan. So firstly, a few housekeeping rules if that's okay for those of us that are here, IRL which I believe is young people speak for in real life. In the unlikely event of an emergency and alarm will sound. And an announcement will be made that guests should leave through the marked exits staff will evacuate us from the main entrance to meet at the assembly point which is outside Wildfire restaurant or below St. Ellis or the Viaduct carpark. So follow the instructions of your crew ladies and gentlemen, bathrooms are located at the back of the room next to the main entrance. And finally could you please turn all your mobile phones to silent but leave them on so that you can ask questions via Slido which I just learned about this evening. And I will explain shortly. The format for tonight will be a presentation from the wonderful George Weeks Principal Urban Designer for Auckland Council followed by a panel discussion where you the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions whether you're in the room or online from home. So hello out there again, people online. We'll be using Slido which is an interactive question and answer tool for audience questions. If you have a smartphone, does anyone not have a smartphone these days? Pointy question. We'll encourage you to visit [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) and enter the code hashtag hashtag CCMP and ask your question. We're aiming to get through as many questions as we have time for. So you can submit your question anytime during the evening, alternatively, we'll also have microphones and be asking for questions from the floor. So we'll have some wonderful people out there keeping an eye on you and real life people at the same time. Please remember that we'd love you to ask a question, not make a statement. Tonight is about having a friendly open discussion about the city centre and to raise awareness of the city centre master plan. We want to get to as many voices as possible. We'd also really love it if you could share your name and age alongside your question, as you know we're here to think about how young people are involved. So if you let us know who you are and maybe how old you are then we'll know who we're hearing from. I'm going to start the bidding. I'm 47 whole years old. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. So you're welcome also to tweet any time during the event using the hashtag AKL conversations we always try to ensure that Auckland conversations events are inclusive and accessible. So on demand viewing of the event a full transcript and captioning of the event and presentations will be available on the Auckland Councils website on the next in the next few days, if you want to share it with your friends. So let's get into it. We're here tonight to consider the topic A vision for Auckland

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designing with future generations in mind. Auckland City Centre plays a critical role in the success of both Auckland and New Zealand. It is the main location for business tourism, educational, cultural, and civic activities. And is home to 37,000 people, I'm one of them, by the way, in fact, please call it. Does anybody live in the city centre alongside me? Thank you so much. Just acknowledging all the people that are actually a city centre resident, thank you very much. Like all city centres ours performs multiple functions and evolves over time as people's needs change. Since 2012 a visionary master plan has shaped the evolution of Auckland city centre as it transforms and adapts to serve Aucklanders now and into the future. In March, 2020 a refreshed city centre master plan was adopted by Auckland Council's planning committee, looking to the next 20 years that city centre master plan sets the strategic direction for the city centre and waterfront with a vision of a more livable inclusive green and people friendly place. One that is uniquely Tāmaki Makaurau. Cities are most successful when they reflect the needs of everyone. Traditional approaches to urban planning have tended to favour people in positions of power. The city centre master plan has sought to change this. This plan is the vision to ensure that the heart of our city remains a vibrant bountiful place for everyone and sets that strategic direction for the city. This event is the first in a series of Auckland conversations being planned with the aim being to dig into that master plan and show how visionary the plan is but also hear voices on what it's doing for our city. Each event in the series will be focused on some of the big topics that the plan addresses like transport climate change, connectedness, livability, affordability and inclusivity. As I said before, the purpose of tonight's event is to increase young people's understanding of the city centre master plan and to look at the city centre master plan from a young Aucklanders perspective. So there's a job for all of you that might be parents or have young people at home when you get home. If you have young people that maybe need to watch the video of this later on, we'd really appreciate that. This city is incredibly lucky to be supported by a group of amazing young people with our youth advisory panel we must be listening to those Aucklanders who are going to here inherit the city that we are making. The youth advisory panel is one of the many ways that councils listen to the youth voices on matters of importance to them. It is a panel consisting of nine youth across Tāmaki Makaurau age from 16 to 24 who meet regularly to provide advice, feedback, and input into council's plans, budgets and decisions across a wide range of topics, enabling the governing body to apply perspective and considerations that may not have been present at the table otherwise. In their words the youth of today are the future of tomorrow, actually and one of Houston's words I believe that children are our future, sorry, back to the youth panels. Their thoughts and concerns are not only of the present but include the future as well. Young people are the most motivated to challenge the status quo as well as to change it their innate ability to learn and adapt rapidly to the environment, give young people the edge in regards to voicing concerns as well as fostering sound leadership to navigate through these challenges. This makes it absolutely critical the young are not only present but are engaged during decision-making process enabling youth participation ensures diverse perspectives and critical thinking on the key concerns facing the future generation. Thank you. This is exactly the reason we're all here tonight. So let's get into the conversation. It's now my very great pleasure to introduce to the stage a person who is getting on with us. George Weeks, is the principal urban designer for Auckland Council, he is responsible for the refreshed Auckland city master plan, which provides a design led vision for new Zealand's largest city. He has also contributed to Auckland Council's prize-winning work to develop a business case for walking and has helped to shape Auckland transport's roads and streets framework. Prior to Auckland Council, he worked in the UK as an urban designer at transport for London and was a graduate fellow in Sustainable Urbanism at the Prince of

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Wales's Foundation for Community Building his work reflects a lifelong interest in the design of city streets and the impact on people's health and wellbeing. Welcome George.

- Thank you, Frith. Good evening. Welcome everybody. My name is George Weeks and I'm an urban designer at Auckland Council. And as Frith has described, I was the lead author on the Auckland city centre master plan refresh our 20 year vision for the heart of the city. And you can read it on your laptop computer or mobile device. I'm here to give a quick talk on the master plan from young people's perspectives. And this is very important because young people often have a very hard time being heard. They are told to shut up and be realistic. They'd rather do noble deeds than useful ones. And this statement is not from Mike Hosking. This is from Aristotle. It is from two and a half thousand years ago. And similarly, we all know that young people are contemptible ill informed chatterboxes. And this quote is not from Harry Enfield. It's from Socrates its even older than Aristotle. In other words, dismissal of young people by older people is literally as old as civilization. This is an event about young Aucklanders. I still got most of my hair, but I'm not particularly young. When I was born, David Lange was the new prime minister. The cure returned in New Zealand. Billy T. James was filming, Came a Hot Friday. Stig Blomqvist won the New Zealand rally in an Audi Quattro. I mean, how eighties can you get? And atmospheric CO2 was about 340 PPM compared to well over 400 now. It all seems like a long time ago. And as you can tell I'm not originally from New Zealand before coming to Auckland I worked as an urban designer at transport for London mainly on best practise street and road design guides. And as well as this, I also had a voluntary side hustle as a pub Quizmaster, back one slide. There's a slight lag on the . But I had a second voluntary side hustle this time by Bicycle, which was taking study tours to places in the UK and overseas that have accessible streets. And I mean, this is all about finding out about how different cities work and just really getting to understand, what really can be done if you put your minds to what your streets can do. I must emphasise that my cycle study tours were nothing like this, rubbish. This is what it's all about. This is what's all about, the real point about the best cities are the ones that make you smile, which brings me to Auckland which is a city that I love very much and where I've lived for the past four and a half years. Goodness gracious. Here we go. I came here in 2017. I think this position works with the clicker to help refresh the Auckland city centre master plan which alongside the waterfront plan was written in 2012. And they're both very visionary documents and they both have achieved a huge amount in the past 10, sorry, nine years. And some of you may be saying, well is this the plan for the Auckland CBD? In which case, if you're asking that question please put 10 bucks in the swear jar right now. CBD is years out of date, almost 40,000 people live here the best connected square mile in New Zealand. It's the city centre it's for everyone and a master plan helped make it into a better place. I mean, think of things like the city centre shared spaces like Lorne Street, I mean only a few years ago. This was what we thought was normal. But now we've realised there's much more to streets than how much free parking you can squeeze in. Similarly, the citizen the master plan transformed the older Nelson street off ramp into a rather cool new public space for the city centre. And the city centre master plan showed how city rail link would shape urban development. Albert street looked like this in 2012 when the master plan was published and Albert Street looks a bit like that now, pretty cool. But this confident vision for our biggest city our biggest ever transport scheme gave confidence to our biggest investors. I mean, Precinct Properties would not have dropped a billion dollars of their investors money into Commercial Bay if they weren't sure that it was going to pay off. So in 2018, very exciting year we saw New Zealand's first commercial space launch. What was also exciting was we saw the Auckland plan being published and this set out statutory outcomes for

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the whole city for 2050, the statutory vision of the whole city comes from the Auckland plan. And this plus other factors meant that it was a good time to refresh Auckland city centre master plan to make it consistent with the Auckland plan make it entirely consistent with the waterfront plan and really just reflect how the world had changed since 2012, to cut an extremely long story short we refreshed and digitised the city centre master plan between 2018 and 2020 with sustained and valuable input from Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, Panuku, , Nr , Jazz Max, Tyron O'Hare, Buzz channel, and many many others, many of whom are in this room. And I thank you all very much for your contributions and leadership in it. So what's in the city centre master plan. I hear your cry. This I promise is the only slide on which I will read word for word because it's important. And also 'cause the white text isn't showing up very well against the blue sky. The city centre the master plan is the key guiding document for the Auckland Council whānau, setting the strategic direction for the city centre over the next 20 years. And this strategic direction has been developed through a huge amount of analysis engagement and political dialogue. If it's in the city centre master plan people have approved it at strategic and senior levels and by our elected city Councillors at planning committee at least one of whom is in this room. The Auckland city centre master plan applies the Auckland plan to the city centre through 10 outcomes to be delivered through eight transformational moves and access for everyone. What is access for everyone? I hear you cry. Well, access for everyone. We developed it as part of the city centre master plan refresh to really work out how to transform Queen Street for pedestrians and public transport while also increasing access to the city centre. It's a traffic circulation model that uses Māori Drive and the Motorway box for general traffic freeing up more city centre streets for other uses and providing more public space. And it's very much Auckland's plan, but it's based on a design from Huningue in the Northern Netherlands which was developed by this guy Max Funderburk when he was only 24. And he was the deputy mayor for transport and Dutch cities in the 1970s were clogged with traffic and faced with traffic clogged streets, and a lack of car parking, sound familiar city traffic movement was reorganised around for low traffic neighbourhoods connected with the ring road. Traffic can go from one zone to another via the ring road but you can sidewalk or cycle anywhere within it. And here's how the same square looks now. Not only is it prettier without the beetles the city is prosperous 'cause it attracts people and it attracts business and it generates wealth. I mean here's how cities centre streets look in Huningue today. I mean, imagine the fresh air the sound of bird song, chit chat and laughter. This is somewhere that you simply want to be. And access for everyone allows us to do something similar for Auckland city centre. And it is in the city centre master plan. We also have eight transformational moves in the city centre master plan setting out eight categories of place-based intervention in the city centre, coordinating existing works and making new proposals all of which are to do with transport and accessibility making a city that's easier to get to easier to get around nicer when you're there. And you can follow the link which is flashing in the corner, in the corner of your why look it up for yourself, explore it. And all of these lead to more opportunities again which are all listed in the city centre master plan. You can look them up for yourself. And these include things such as our vision to transform the Eastern edge of the city centre the missing middle between Parnell and the city transforming it from a kind of a bit of a in-between space into a medium rise, high density, urban neighbourhood, which could almost be as big as Wynyard Quarter using the existing Waka Kotahi NZ Transport designation to build a motorway Boulevard linking Tamaki Drive with the Grafton Gully motorway making space for movement but also supporting the necessary frontage development for an urban area, providing space to move space to interact with the surrounding buildings really a better functioning streets. About the master plans reflection of Tāmaki Makaurau as the world's

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largest Māori city, working with the Mana Whenua Kaitiaki forum to develop a vision for a a flexible space located here on Queen's Wharf just east to the ferry building to allow mana whenua to offer many different functions and activities and share Tāmaki Makaurau mana whenua identity with the world as we see here , a highly flexible facility with studio and performance space both internally and facing OTS square creating an edge to contain and activate the Southern side of the square. And there are many many more city centre master plan opportunities. Take a look at the website go home and look it all up and see. And if you've got ideas that fit within these principles we do not have a monopoly on good ideas, develop them, tell them, let us know work out how you can contribute to the vision. I mean, it's very much, what can you bring to the city? And also look at the 3D maps for each city centre precinct. These are on the master plan as well. You can go there, see the different buildings proposed the different spaces involved. Go ahead, take a look, get to know it, figure it out work out how you can be part of the journey. So I want to finish by touching briefly on the city centre master plan really about the consultation and engagement, which took place between 2019 and 2020. And this included as Frith mentioned targeted engagement with many, many organisations including the youth advisory panel and also a wider public engagement taking place between October and sorry, September, October, 2019. So among all the respondents, we had more than 500 more than 3000 individual comments. I've read every single one, I promise. Of whom more than three quarters supported the overall vision. And more than four fifth supported the idea Access for everyone and among young people for this purpose I'm saying young as 24 or younger there was a slightly higher level of support particularly for access for everyone, but also really for the idea of transit oriented development. One person specifically said they wanted to see supermarkets near railway station. I think it was a fine idea. I mean, here is a, just a random sample of some of the comments that young people provided. People wanted to see dedicated reference to Auckland's diversity and openness, better architecture fewer ugly buildings, build more Greenways, public transport, public transport, public transport, public transport. That was all the same comment. Somebody had a very fixed idea. Please work closely with Auckland transport to make sure your strategic outcomes align. Every other country seems to understand that you put supermarkets by the transit stops. The plan refresh is active on the front of climate change, a key issue of our time also seeks to bring and uplift the human perspective of the streets of Auckland. I liked that one a lot. So these are the kinds of things people would say. I think consistent amongst young people and the respondents as a whole, the most common phrase we got was in terms of support was people liking the direction towards greater pedestrian friendliness. And a second thing that I really got from reading the comments was one that's a Monty Python's God might have approved, which was get on with it. Please do less consulting and please do more doing things. I close there. Thank you so much. And this brings me back to our friend from Huningue, Max Funderburk who transformed Huningue at the age of 24, he says that he was accused of being a problematic administrator. Even in my own party there're people who strongly disagreed, to me they were lugging behind. It was really just a clash between generations. And remember if we go back to level four last year we experienced traffic free quiet streets across pretty much all of Auckland. I mean, this is Ponsonby Road. You can actually hear a conversation in Ponsonby Road. People wanted to go out and about with their families with their kids, with their . I mean, we had a whole system of streets accessible to all generations. I mean, on whose side of history do we wish to be, even just outside of this building, we've seen a rapid transformation as well. Key streets transformed to give us a whole new city centre waterfront and enabling city centre life. I mean, it was pretty awful while the construction was taking place. Everyone got stuck in traffic at some point but now it's not pretty awful. It's pretty

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lovely. It's actually gorgeous. I'm going to leave it here. Really. I've spoken quite enough. And many other people have more to say but to finish really, just please remember that Auckland has a visionary city centre master plan. It's politically endorsed. It's freely available. It's full of wonderful pictures, animations and 3D images. And I urge you whatever your age to really get to know the master plan, understand it and use it to do what to make it possible, to deliver a greener more prosperous and more livable city that works for all Aucklanders, thank you.

- he is very lucky to have you and really want to join you in that, that quote from the feedback that seeks to bring and uplift, the human perspective in the streets of Auckland brings in your ears. I've always wondered about the need for us to have sentences like streets for people, who else are they for? Who's driving those cars. Anyway good. It's now my very great pleasure to invite the rest of our panel to the stage. So you've met the very wonderful George. So next up we have the fantastic Emma McInnes. So Emma is the chair and... I'll speak in a timing them up to the stage kind of way. Ladies, gentlemen, I need the soundtrack women sorry, co-founder of Women and Urbanism Aotearoa and is currently an Urban Designer at Resilio Studio. In her early twenties, Emma volunteered with the climate change solutions focus group Generation Zero. She is passionate about bicycles and has for a long time campaigned to bring more protected cycle lanes to Aotearoa. Welcome Emma, welcome Gary with the microphones. Our next fantastic panellists is Chamanthie Sinhalage-Fonseka, Chamanthie is an inner city resident, respect urban living has dominated most of Chamanthie's life along with inner city Auckland, where she now lives, the vastly different city centres of Beijing, Wellington and Hamilton, go Hamilton has shaped her perspectives on inner city living and urbanism. Over the past decade, Chamanthie has been an advisor to the leadership of several major cities and later co-headed an urban communications consultancy where she advised on transformative city projects. Welcome Chamanthie. And last, but definitely not least Kerrin Leoni, Kerrin of nate power, nate taco nate . is the former deputy chair of Waitematā Local Board and now serves as a board member. Kerrin is passionate about housing education and arts addressing families and urbanism as well as homelessness with other concerns that drove her to get involved in local government. The Waitematā Board recently introduced a Māori outcomes policy, which Leoni leads, Ms. Leoni, sorry, leads along with the boards Archer arts culture and events portfolio. I'll get my tongue back now. Kerrin has extensive international experience running her own limited company in the social services management sector in the UK for 10 years. Initially based in London. In 2015 she completed her second master's in economics and international politics at Kings College London. She returned to New Zealand in late 2015 and has a home in Auckland city centre with her twins. Welcome Kerrin. Ladies and gentlemen we're going to start with a fairly simple question for each of our panellists to answer in turn which is why do you choose to live in Auckland? So, George, can we start with you? This is our warm up question.

- Thank you. I live more or less where new market turns into . So fairly central in a city. Why do I live there? Convenience really. It's convenient for almost anything that you want to do. New pockets, new markets, you're perfectly well connected to the rest of the city. There's plenty to do there in its own right. I moved there temporarily for six months in 2018. And I'm still there three years later. So it can't be all bad, a very a good place to be for itself and for the rest of the city.

- Awesome.

- Kia ora. That's actually a slightly bigger question for me. I'm originally I'm off a beef farm in Whangarei Whananaki if you're familiar with that. So I had a, probably very different background to a lot of current city dwellers but for me it was the power of proximity the power of having people around me having networks that I didn't really have growing up kind of isolated on a farm. And I moved here about 10 years ago and yeah it just really, it really changed me and changed my life. I mean, that access, that I'd never had before and having access to support and people that I'd never really had before. So, that power and potential of cities is really an important driver as to why I love cities and live here in Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland and also Auckland's fantastic as well.

- Yeah, it's a bit of a big question for me as well. I've actually lived in Auckland twice. The first time was when I moved here at the age of 10 in 1998. I'm aching my age now as well. And I'm feeling a little bit like an imposter for calling myself a young person, not too far off you George. First time wasn't by choice. It was, I'd grown up in Beijing. I'll talk about that a bit later, but certainly at a very formative age, kind of seeing the development of a major international city as it kind of went from a very closed economy to kind of the mega city that it is now that really sort of shaped who I was as a child. And then moving to Auckland in 1998, going from Beijing to Glenfield was quite a culture shock. And so I did my schooling in Auckland. And then after the first year of uni I decided I wanted to leave partly for all the kind of usual reasons you want to kind of leave your hometown go elsewhere. But also because I never really vibed with Auckland I grew up in a central Auckland suburb. It was all about the boat, the batch and the beamer was a far cry from the very kind of urban environment and just the excitement and energy of somewhere like Beijing. I spent the next 13 or 14 years resisting coming back to Auckland, mostly because of the commute because that's the one big thing that people talk about. I mean, Auckland, you could tell it was going places but did you really want to also have to think about traffic all the time? And so what ended up bringing me back to Auckland was actually a combination of a job I was offered and just the right time for my wider family and what I've found in the kind of my second time living in Auckland is that it's wonderful. So you'll no doubt hear a bit more about that later in the night.

- Kia ora everyone. My story is probably very different to a lot of the panellists here. So I bought my apartment on Queen Street when I was in my early twenties. So I was really attracted to obviously being in the city centre and coming from the suburbs. And obviously I was going to university. I was doing my first masters at AUT at the time. And it just made sense to actually be based in the city and knowing to get out to the suburbs and to be centrally based would be great. I then went on to get another apartment in Hobson Street and I never actually imagined that I'd end up raising my twins in this apartment 15 years later. But after coming back from London and doing a 10 year stint there it just actually was really, it felt right to actually be based in the city to be central to everything actually in terms of traffic, it is great. 'Cause you're always going the opposite direction of everyone else. And yeah, I think that the way that it's changed in the 10 years that I went and came back I just thought this is the place that I want to be.

- Can we keep the mic with you, Kerrin? And could you maybe speak a little bit about what your hopes are for families in the city centre?

- Yeah, so I'm really clear on the fact that with my four year old twins, I want to know that the future of the city centre is going to be tailored to meet the needs of families. So have all of the

amenities that we need to have available have our supermarkets, have our shopping centres, we've got K road, we've got all of the things that we actually need. It's just ensuring that we do get up to speed with the best transport which we're on our way towards doing. And I know that at the moment the hot topic is Queen Street, which is obviously going to be ongoing as well. So the future for me is to ensure that we have all of the services available for them. At the moment I am, I do struggle because we have limited Kohanga in the city centre. So I have to travel every day all the way to Glendowie to take my twins to Kohanga. So we only have one that's the only downfall but obviously when we improve transport links and things like that I think that will become a lot better in the future. But yeah, we should be able to design these cities so that everything can be met and here in the city centre. And obviously the time that I spent in London we know that these things can happen. So I'm really excited for the future.

- That's awesome. Thank you. If it's all right to pick up on the slight teaser that you gave us Chamanthie about Beijing, et cetera, et cetera. There's a great question here about the stark differences that you noticed from the Auckland that you left when you were 19 between your experiences over there and what you see now in the city.

- Yeah. I mean, I think it's really interesting that you talk about your children because I was one of those urban children. When we first moved to China, I was a year old. We didn't have a car or anything. So what my parents had were two bikes and they strapped me on to the back of whichever of them was sort of wanting to have me on their back. And that's how we travelled around. And this was sort of the very early nineties. And then in terms of kind of, that in Beijing, it was safe for children at the time, especially if you were a foreign child, which, there's a darkness to that that I won't get into. But what was really lovely was that some of my earliest memories was being able to at about age six wonder parts of the city, with my friend in a way that you just wouldn't get in even suburbia in New Zealand, another one of my memories is so my parents were in their thirties they would go out sort of to night clubs and karaoke and we would just kind of tag along. So it was a very kind of urban childhood. So moving to Auckland, I think it was, the suburbia was deafening in many ways. It was sort of, I mean, Glenfield was, I mean it was greener than Beijing, but, the shore is beautiful, but certainly it felt at the time like there was a real lack of energy. There was a real lack of diversity. Beijing was a big metropolitan city. We lived on the 22nd floor of our apartment building. And my parents actually were involved in sort of some of the big construction projects that were happening there. So Beijing's changing skyline was very much kind of connected to my childhood. And so you go from kind of pointing out these buildings that, you feel this kind of connection to to moving to somewhere where it's, it's just very hard to get a sense of your connection to what you're seeing. And then you move to kind of Auckland now. And I live on the 30th floor of an apartment building so there's that, but there's a real energy around the central city. And I think that for me, when I look out the window at night, when I see the lights around Auckland something that I think other cities in New Zealand can't really compare to. And I think, moving here from Wellington more recently, I think Wellington's a beautiful city but it really doesn't have that same kind of energy that Auckland has now. And certainly not what Beijing had back then. And so I think that's probably one of the, kind of the biggest things. And the other one is that Auckland feels a lot more like a 24 hours city now. That doesn't mean that, you want to go out say to bars or out clubbing or whatever at night that feels more like you can go out for a walk. You can go out for a late night coffee you can meet other city, inner city residents late at night for a drink. And it's just a very easy sort of a life. And I think that's kind of the life here at the moment.



- It's, a wonderful thing as a born and bred Aucklander to hear the city spoken about in such a beautiful way. Thank you. That's brilliant. Emma, if it's okay to come to you with, I'm going to read this question cause it was beautifully worded, but it's very grown up. The city centre master plan sets a vision of an inclusive city centre that is relevant, engaging and accessible to all who call Tāmaki Makaurau home. You've been vocal rightly so about the need for women to be more involved in designing cities. Can you talk to us about why this is important in creating an inclusive place?

- Yeah. Well, cities are incredibly gendered basically since the beginning of time they're being designed by and for men. And I think that the city centre master plan as what George presented before really does set a different tone. It is more focused on being more inclusive and really a city for all. But as I said, cities are incredibly gendered places like the lack of public bathrooms for women who tend to need to go toilet more and city spaces that's one of those really big problems I would say is with our city centre. Women also typically walk more than men and, our foot paths are still in utterly terrible conditions. Men tend to drive more than women. Whereas our road networks are pretty damn good and we'd get parking pretty much every where we want. So, we're really not designing for the needs of women based on what we understand about them and how they move around our cities. They also prefer, overwhelmingly women prefer to take more environmental modes. They prefer taking public transport, walking cycling, scootering, but that choice isn't really there for them. Our transport networks are really around designed to run the nine to five commuter. And they're not really taking it into the needs of someone like Kerrin who has to take her children to Kohanga Reo in the morning. The city centre is still really absent of scopes. And so that makes it really difficult for parents. One of the really stark and obvious problems is sort of the Nelson street apartment blocks, where it's really difficult for the amount of parents that are in those blocks to take their children to school in St Mary's in the morning, there's almost no where for them to walk and crossing that traffic sewer of Nelson street is just a precinct. Our city is not there yet. I know there's this vision for our cities to be better, but, we really need to make sure that we're thinking about our caregivers who are still overwhelmingly women doing that care work. And we need to be thinking about our children people of all ages and abilities how our elderly people will access our cities as well. I do believe the city centre master plan is on track for that, but yeah, as the city centre currently is it doesn't do that well enough.

- Awesome. Thank you Emma. George we'll bring it to you and thank you, Emma. It was like we planned that. Here's a beautiful segue. Just if you could speak to us George about how younger people were engaged through the development of the city centre master plan either the original or the refresh, what were some of the mechanisms you used? You already talked to us about those responses. How did you get to them?

- Okay, well, I can't talk about the original city centre master plan. I was too young to have written it myself.

- Wasn't born yet.

- Almost. And as far as the Auckland city centre master plan refresh was concerned. I think a point of it's really make was that anybody can sit down and write themselves a plan. A plan is

only useful if it actually reflects the engagement of the people who are actually going to use it and who're going to support it who are going to be affected by it. And we did a huge amount of targeted engagement with as many people as possible. As far as young people are concerned we worked with the Auckland Council council youth advisory panel who were superb. They were really good at giving us steers about we should think a bit more about this. Think a bit more about that. We also worked also just picking up on the inclusivity point. We worked with the disability advisory forum. One of the real threads in the master plan is accessibility and inclusivity via universal design approach. Look it up, it's there. Also when promoting the wider public consultation, we used social media. I mean, that's how you connect with the youth, but seriously, that did actually work. And also we engaged with the university of Auckland. I actually gave a seminar to the planning students at the university of Auckland to really help them get under the skin of it. Submit, tell your friends and so on. I mean, we really reached out as much as we could to not only the nominated representatives but actually to a as wide an audience of younger people as possible. And I mean, I think in terms of we had about 540 responses of which I believe about 48 were from people 24 or under, and then there was a much much bigger bowl to people, 25 to 34 huge numbers as well. So I mean, there's a huge amount of interest in the future of the city from the people who have plenty of their lives to grow up and see the city grow up and really want to see a city that actually works for them.

- Awesome. Is it all right, to open this conversation up to the rest of the panel as well is how do we better elevate the voice of younger people when discussing the city's future and how can they be better supported to share their views on what matters most to them to clear thoughts as well as social media as you've said George but also we've got a lot of university students living right there and how should we be getting to them in a way that means something to them?

- Well, I've got the mic before I pass it down the line, I think it's very important that people in decision-making positions, positions of authority, remember that you have one mouth and you have two ears and you're meant to use them in that proportion. I mean, it's very easy to be like old Aristotle and sit there from your position of being a bit of a Sage dismissing anyone who's younger and less worthy than you. That's nonsense. You can always keep on learning. And it is terrifically arrogant to assume that superiority means omniscience. I mean, if anybody ever turns to you and says I finished my education, you're going to be on the receiving end of a boorish monologue right after that, you never stop learning no one ever stops learning and always be willing to actually learn from engage with people, somebody says something to you, don't just bat it back like you're playing ping pong actually listen to what they say, take it in, really engage meaningfully people will respect you for it. And you have a much healthier dialogue than just trying to play tete-a-tete with somebody whose opinion isn't the same as yours.

- Awesome.

- So I think I've got a really simple solution when young people ask for something, when they want, more urgency on climate change, when they want, walking and cycling infrastructure, we should listen to them and take note of what they're saying in the same way that we give value to the owners of Gucci or whatever ridiculous brand on Queen Street. They kind of are able to get their way when they complain about something or want something there's an emergency meeting the next day, we've got to change this right now. Why aren't we listening to young

people and children in the same way? So yeah, there you go. Just our, those in decision-making positions can do that. So they should be.

- Awesome. Thank you Emma.

- I think also there's a case to be made for thinking about the way that young people will use the city in the future. So one of the things that I did while I in my kind of 13 years away from Auckland was I advised the leadership of a couple of major New Zealand cities as well as ran an urban communications consultancy. So these were issues that I was quite involved in. And one of the really interesting kind of insights that we got from an exercise that we did with young people in Wellington was that COVID has really changed what it is that young people want out of cities. So they want all of those things that both Emma and George mentioned but also when you think about career prospects and things like that in the past, it used to be that people moved to cities for the jobs that they wanted to do. So cities, there was a bit of a role between kind of cities and the way that they attract talent especially young talent and how they try to keep talent there. Right? Whereas now with kind of the rise of work from home and things like that the feedback that we got from younger people in Wellington and I suspect it might not be too different in Auckland is actually now that they're allowed to work from wherever they want to suddenly there's no real need for them to stay in cities especially with things like rising rents. Now, the thing about Auckland's central, that not a lot of people talk about is that as a result of COVID you've actually experienced a decrease in rentals rental prices rather. And it's a really prime time for Auckland to think about how they leverage that to attract younger people to stay here. And so we think that this is less about sort of how we engage with younger people but also how we think about what it is that those younger people will kind of need in the next kind of five years or where they might take their lives and how cities can kind of remain competitive and remain kind of vibrant by attracting those younger people to remain here. And I think that's absolutely on top of everything that George and Emma have mentioned.

- So I just want to add to that as well because I think so one part of it is going out to the young people because we know that like the high schools, for example you've got a whole cohort of young people that are then going to become city centre dwellers as young adults. And the other thing that we have talked about in the local board is how do we change the way that young people would see the city centre as being a place that they would actually live long-term. And I think, 10 or 15 years ago you'd see it as a place that young people come and just, work or go out night clubbing. But now the fact that it is, where the families want to come and invest and stay here for a lifetime. So I think there's other schemes that, for example over in London you've got the key worker key housing scheme worker housing scheme, where, if local government did steer towards that in the future where if there's possibility for them to transition into home ownership and things like that. And we actually start to build those pathways we'd get a very different response from young people.

- That's awesome. Thank you. Kerrin if its okay to ask a question specifically for you then we're going to go to the Slido and the floor. So start cooking up those questions. I'll say them again, questions, not statements ladies and gentlemen questions. We love questions. Kerrin, it's a big question. What role do you think Māori should play in the future developments in the making of the city?

- Oh, look, I think, for Māori and as being mana whenua myself being Nazi power I think we really need to be at the front of all the design and the future developments. And, we have an opportunity to really show true partnership here in the city centre with the population of 37,000 people but also breaking down a lot of those cultural barriers that have been experienced in the past. Some really simple things that we're looking at as well is doing things like kapa haka which would be open to all residents and not just Māori and really trying to share the culture and make all New Zealanders proud of our culture and be able to really feel that. So it was great to see up on your slide show that we're going to have a centre there in the future but we need to just normalise the culture and we need to really just live out that true to, partnership. It's a real opportunity for us to move in that direction. And the country's already moving in that direction in so many ways, we've got Māori wards that are coming in. And so all of those governance roles and the key decision-making roles need to have Māori at the table.

- Thank you Kerrin. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm now going to work really hard to not break the iPad. All be with me on not breaking the iPad. So people with your hands up. Thank you. Hello to Steve and Gina who have the microphones out there I believe. So my lovely friends out there are going to be running questions to you. Lovely real people in real life. I am going to start with the Slido if that's okay. And it picks up on something that was just being discussed. But from anonymous, who's the age we don't know. COVID has meant many more people working from home. How does this affect the plan for the city centre? And does this mean we need more of a focus on suburban centres? So Chamanthie, you were just talking on this but can we pick that up with the rest of the panel maybe as well? And any additional thoughts from you lady.

- Oh, sorry. You answered that one. I just, I need you to repeat it.

- Sorry. I'll go slow.

- It was a long one.

- COVID has meant many more people working from home. How does this affect the plan for the city centre? And this mean we need more focus on suburban centres? Thank you to anonymous for that question. Totally know you're there lady, all good.

- Do I get next one?

- You will be next. I'm going to go online. I'm going to go online and then I'm going to go real person and then online and then real person, if it's cool. Not that the online people, aren't real people, ladies and gentlemen, they are real people out there. Well, look as we've got a lot of anonymous. So those, all of you people out there on Slido. We'd love to know who you are including the age, people that have voted for that question.

- If I may answer anonymous' question, thank you anonymous wherever you may be. Very good question. But at the same time I think you need to put 10 bucks in the swear jar. 'Cause you're still thinking of the CBD.

- True, true. That's 10 bucks, ladies and gentlemen.

- That's much, there's much more to the city centre than simply going to work. I mean, it is a place where many people do work, but I mean you've got two universities here. You've got the museums you've got the art gallery, you've got the theatres you've got cinemas, you've got bars. You've got, people come together from all kinds of reasons. The basic function of a city is to bring people together. People want to be together. We saw how, after a month of level four, working from home as soon as people could get out it was like letting the cows out of the barn after a winter, they'd go bounding into the buttercups. It was the same with people coming into the city. People wanted be together and that function will always exist. The city centre is the best connected square mile in the entirety of New Zealand. And it will always have that function. Even if you can work from home a bit. I mean our suburban center's important. Absolutely. Yes. We need to invest in our suburban centres as well, without question. I mean, they have so much potential but it's not a zero sum game. It is the city centre and it is the neighbourhood centres and the metropolitan centres. It's all of them. So it's not just a CBD.

- Awesome. Thank you. Does anyone else want to have a go with that one?

- I'll say a slightly to the side of that comment women actually overwhelmingly prefer places where there's mixed use development. So, you've got your cafes mixed in with your residential. We prefer when there's lots of people around where there's passive surveillance happening and our cities are a really wonderful place for that to happen for women to feel safe and comfortable in our streets. And so, yeah, I think, we still want to make sure that our city is thriving so that women have a place where they feel really safe going for their evening run or going out late night dining, whatever that is. But, equally our suburbs should be safe places like that too. So we're going to densify them as well.

- Awesome. Thank you. Anyone else got anything?

- I might just add to that actually because that's a really interesting question that kind of suburbia versus city centre perpetual kind of tension. I think if we are not, if we are not particular about it and if you're not intentional about it you might well see that a city centre could decline while suburbia grows. And certainly we saw that in the Wellington region where spending went up in every part of the region except for the central city over sort of the last year. And I think the thing to remember there is that not only is it the best square mile in the country a CBD oh sorry a central city, central city...

- 20 bucks.

- Is also the economic engine of the city. And so if you don't do what needs to be done, especially through a period, like the one that we're going through you there is a kind of a wider risk to the health of the rest of the city. So it's really important that we're intentional about our central cities and not kind of take this sort of very polar city or a suburbia type of view. It's end.

- Awesome. Thank you very much. So can we go to the floor please? Ladies and gentlemen, Steve, if you got there. Thank you.

- Thank you. I've got two quick questions. Well, one quick question and one for each of the panellists. The first quick question is George, I think you've been in Auckland for four years. If

the plan doesn't work, will you stay will you be here to be accountable? So quick question. And my key question to each and every one of you is I've lived in Auckland city for longer than all of you put together. I'm active in the area of entrepreneurship. There have been 6,000 new businesses started in Old Tudor, New Zealand since COVID most of them, young people. What do each of you think the city should be offering to the future Gucci's who with respect I think actually should get more air time than a 10 year old because they are the rate payers. They are the business owners. They are generating wealth for our country. If each of you could answer please.

- Sarah perfect. Thank you.

- I just hope we capture that moment where you said Gucci was pretty much more important than a ten-year-old. That's really a fascinating comment from a local board member.

- I think it was the first question to you.

- The first question. Absolutely. Yes. Auckland is my home. I love it here. I want to, I mean, the thing about being an urban planner is it's not like being a software developer. It takes years for plans to happen. You've got to sit here and actually make it work and nurture it and continue to deliver it. So, yes, in terms of what you want to offer young entrepreneurs I mean the 10 year old person writing a letter to the a 10 year old of today is the business owner and entrepreneur and rate payer of the future. And if they don't like this city, they wont pay rates here. They'll leave, they'll go somewhere else Wellington or Dubai or wherever. So really it's about providing a city that brings people together and really has space for business, space that is convenient. That is inviting. I suppose, what you want in the city is fuzziness, city building is not SIM city. You do not precisely plan it all out like Lego. What you do is you provide the entrepreneurial space which allows people to flourish. So that's basically about making life easier to have good ideas and to develop them. I do not speak as an entrepreneurial expert as you Sarah, but in terms of looking at cities that have nurtured good ideas. It's been where there's been free space and where people want to be. Those are the two main factors.

- Awesome George. Thank you.

- And also, I hope those ten-year-old survive because of all the black carbon, thanks to all the bloody cars that we have in our city centre that shouldn't be there to make it through, to own those businesses in the future. And I think the city centre master plan is one of those things that's going to help our kids actually live and work in a healthy environment in the future.

- You know the buses were the main biggest cause of that.

- I would also, before I answer, I'd just, really it's really difficult being on a panel and I've actually, I got hearing loss in my right ear. And so when I hear people kind of muttering things that they disagree with in the crowd is actually really distracting and not really respectful. But yeah, I think you need to know that it's not really fair, but yeah I guess the children are our future business owners and they're the ones that we can rely on to innovate and participate in our cities and help them to be the thriving places that give people dignity of life and quality of life. I just can't get my

head past the fact that Gucci is, those business owners are now recognised by local board members as being more important than children.

- Sorry, can I just clarify...

- Sarah, Sarah, Sarah.

- I'm sorry. I just think this is really bad

- I'm going to interject see if it's okay. One of the original first things that that we asked of the family that was that it's a friendly conversation this evening. And what we're trying to talk about is how we get young people involved in this conversation. And if I was a young person listening online right now I'd be going well, I don't really want to hang out with grownups arguing. So please can I ask that from here on and we try and keep a friendly tone and we remember we're trying to introduce people to this conversation. It's all good. I'm going to hand, I promise, I promise, but that's kind of my request. If it's okay from the floor I'm going to stick with some Slido questions for awhile. And I think what we want to try and work on here is some optimism of what would make people join this conversation if that's okay. So back to our panel to answer Sarah's question.

- I'm going to answer it in two parts. First, I'm going to tackle the issue of the ten-year-olds. So I am not a ten-year-old old nor do I have one but I'm certainly old enough to have a ten-year-old. And so I suspect that a city that works for a 10 year old would be of great benefit for me as a 30 something, because I'd know that my child was safe and happy much like I was in Beijing. So I think that's sort of the short answer to, why do we want cities that are livable for children but coming to that second point around entrepreneurship I think that's actually a really interesting point. If you look at the pre COVID times cities competed with each other for talent. And I think somewhere like San Francisco is a really good example that everyone kind of knows about in the sense that it was, highly entrepreneurial highly creative, and really pulled people in in terms of if you wanted to be involved and say activity in Silicon valley, you moved there, right? And so that tells you that there's a real kind of connection between getting people to live in your city and the entrepreneurial spirit. And so I think that for Auckland, one of the things that Auckland can consider is when you have discussions around things like empty commercial say shopfronts or empty commercial buildings thinking about sort of converting those to residential. Because again, the more you can increase supply of housing the more you can decrease price of housing the more likely it is that you are to attract those kind of future entrepreneurs, but at the same time a city becomes more creative and more entrepreneurial the more dense it is. And so if you're getting people actually living in that kind of, in the country's best square mile but also spending in the country's best square mile. And I say this for anyone who follows me online will know just how much I spend in the city. And, you need more, more young young millennials doing that because you're very much the entrepreneurs as well as the audience of the city.

- Awesome. Thank you.

- Kia ora everyone. So I strongly believe in parallel planning in this instance that we have to plan for obviously our children and we have to plan for the businesses. So I have run my own business before and I know the importance of having the supports in place for that, but I guess

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my vision around supporting our businesses and especially the fact that we have got targeted rates that support businesses in the city centre and across central Auckland. So there is an actual fund that is supporting them to some degree but how can we actually get our young people to move into that space or to be supported by some of these entrepreneurs that are opening their doors that are there's a lot of possibilities here in the city centre I believe about providing work experience and things like that, which, from a wider perspective of families because all of those families that are living here which has been mentioned, they're all spending money. You've got in certain parts of central Auckland around 50% of the businesses are actually people that are working from home. So that is also an another, point that we have to take into account in terms of the future of supporting our businesses and entrepreneurs that are coming up. So we need to look at all of the different aspects. But the key thing is I do believe in that parallel planning for all of those really important things that are coming through. Kia ora.

- Thank you. Very good. Awesome. I'm just going to flag, 'cause this was our second. I'm just going to go online for a heartbeat. If we can get a mic to this nice lady for the question after this question. I'm going to avertly pick Keegan's question 'cause he's put his name on it. So thank you Keegan for your question. And it's a groovy one. I'm not sure if the panel or myself can answer it. What are we doing to ensure that we are preserving, sorry music venues in Tamaki which we are an... And if you know, ladies and gentlemen we're an Auckland city, sorry, Auckland is a city of music. We have official UNESCO status. Music has a pretty clear way of making sure that we've got a range of voices in the city and a range of creativity. George, do you have any thoughts on that question?

- Other than that, the wine cellar is superb. I cannot give a council answer on that but let's have another event here next month. And discuss it in more detail.

- We'll put it on the list for Ashley, ladies and gentlemen. So thank you Keegan for that question. Have you got the microphone? Brilliant. Thank you, Steve. You have now.

- Is it working?

- Yes, it is.

- Right. I am representing the older person and very few of my friends will come into the city these days. It is far too difficult to get the buses. And when they come in, they feel overwhelmed. Now, these are the people who have built the city. What are you doing for them? And these are people who have come in and I used to come in about four times a week I suppose. Now it is difficult to get in. One feels really a bit overwhelmed by everything that's going on. I'm not one of those people. And I speak to a lot of young people and they don't like coming into the city either, and I heard the transport people talking about the buses the other day at a meeting and they were having these buses coming in, but none of them considered the people who were getting on the buses.

- Are you okay if I try and frame up a question from what you're saying, which would be to the panel?

- Yes, certainly.



- What's your opinion on how we approach equitable access to the city? I think Emma, you've touched on this a little bit, but how do we ensure the city is one that everybody can get to in a healthy and safe way? Thank you. Also just because I am representing women urbanism, so it's really important to talk about that gender aspect most about elderly population or those who have disability overwhelmingly represented by women. And so women's access to the city, is an incredibly important issue to us. But yeah, I think it's, I think with buses being designed for all ages and abilities being able to have, sort of step free platforms having a bit more of that with our public transport access you're just designing more barrier free and using universal design as the guide there is what we should be looking to do to make our city more accessible for all ages and abilities. But yeah, I think beyond that, the idea that the city is an overwhelming place it would be really great to see more sort of emphasis on quiet places in our cities 'cause they don't all have to just be like a constant buzz which is why a lot of people do come to cities but our libraries and some of our other shared spaces could just be that for you. So yeah, I think we just need to hear more voices like yours and feedback and integrate that into thinking about some of our other spaces and how we could be designing them so that they're not just, that overwhelming experience that you spoke of.

- Picking up on Emma's point there, a couple of points came up about noise and about peace and about overwhelmingness. And if everyone in this room can picture back to that photograph I had of Ponsonby road during level four lockdown or Lawns street after it was transformed into a shared space. As soon as you remove the requirement for city streets to perform a general traffic movement function you peel that layer back they can do almost anything you like. The basic concept of access for everyone is that if you're coming to the city centre by car, that's absolutely fine, park on the edge of the Queens Street Valley. That's totally cool. We'll show you how to get there. There'll be, we'll tell you which spaces is available then within the city centre, if you're not having to accommodate general traffic movement you can have much, much more high quality footways much more space to walk much more continuous footways easier to cross. You're not... You haven't got to satisfy their traffic model when you're designing a junction you design it to work for all people. You really can think much more about how the city centre would sound. If you haven't got people trying to sneak their way through it, because that's what you did 40 years ago when you couldn't park outside Smith and Coli the world has moved on since then. And what we can really do is take advantage of of our level four experience. The soundscape of a calm street that brings people out and really think about how the city centre streets could do the same. And as soon as you manage city centre movement more intelligently, you can provide better access and a better of an environment when you're there. And that's really what the master plan is all about.

- Awesome.

- As someone... Nailed it. As someone with a hearing impairment, when the noise from the traffic went away during the lockdowns, suddenly I could hear, and that made me feel much safer moving by bike, say in our cities. And so I think, yeah, move that traffic. And then you, maybe you remove feeling overwhelmed so constantly.

- I have a bit of a different perspective I think, to put it quite succinctly, why come into the city when you could just live here? And one of the, my observations as a new ish inner city resident

is that actually it's made up of older people and it has been for a very long time and the people in my building have lived there for 15 years or so. So I just think that again, I mean I might sound a little bit like a broken record. Talking about sort of the need for housing but I don't think that transport is the only part, the only solution. I think it's a very important part of the solution but the other one really is about kind of living here. And if you could just indulge me for just a minute in terms of that kind of commute side of things. I did some math earlier today because I walked to and from work and I recognise that that's not really possible for a sort of everyone who lives in the city but I did some math around what, how long it takes for me in terms of a return trip every day. And it's 30 minutes. So 15 minutes to work walking and 15 minutes back. And then I thought about, well, if I lived at my parents' place right now, central Auckland suburb what would door to door from home to work look like? And it was 118 minutes return. Then I went, okay, well, what does that look like in a year? And that's right now, as it is for me it would be 6,000 minutes worth of walking, worth of walking a year. If I'd lived with my parents it would be 36,000 minutes of travel. So that's not walking, that's travel in a year. What that translates to is if I lived in the suburbs, that would be 25 days of travel into the city for work versus for me right now it's just four days worth of travel. So I add three weeks to my life by living in the city. And so I just think, again, it comes back to, why come in when you can just live here?

- My comments are similar. So we also have a lot of seniors that are living in our apartment building. So we have a swimming pool, we have a gym. So they've, the feedback that I've got is that they've actually cut down costs on having to pay for a gym on having to go to swimming pools because it's all in there. We've got a community space that all of the residents can sit if they want to have a meal in the evening, for example, in the summer. And then they've got their gold card so they can go to Waiheke Island for free. So, I mean, I think that there are pros and cons but that's definitely the feedback that I've had from seniors that have come from living in rural areas as well from the far north and coming into central Auckland and have really enjoyed just the fact that they can get to the shops and everything else without having to use a car.

- Ladies and gentlemen. I'm super conscious of time. So from here on, we're going to go hard and fast if we can really conscious, you've been waiting for a while lady. I'll go online while can we get a mic down? Thank you, Gina to this wonderful woman in the front row. A quick answer from the panel. If it's okay. People who give feedback to council will often only passionately love or passionately hates the plan. How do you get to the 99% of Aucklanders who are somewhere in between to engage?

- Indeed, many of you here, I say many hopefully. Many of you here here will have heard of something called amoeba theory. Think of an amoeba, single celled organism. 98% of its mass is in the nucleus. There's a few little particles, one side few little particles the other. Some of the particles on the left represent everyone that hate represent those who hate everything the council does the other little particles on the right represent everyone who loves everything. The majority of the people in the middle are not spending their spare time filling in surveys. They're spending it actually living their lives and getting on with things. So the question is, how do you actually engage with people in the missing middle? The really important thing is actually to make sure your plans are relevant and as engaging as possible. That's something that we very much did with the 2012 city centre master plan. It was not a planners plan. It was not a 2000 page document that one person will read. It was a 200 page document with illustrations and beautiful designs that 10,000 a hundred thousand people would read. If people can read it, if

people can understand it, if people can relate to it. You're much more likely to get actually normal people feeling feeding back on it a much more representative sample than you are if you're just subsuming people in 4,000 pages of acronyms we do our best to make it as accessible as possible.

- Yes. Thank you very much. I'm going to throw to the question on the floor, if that's okay. Thank you.

- Hi, I'm Gail Bennet. I actually live in the CBD.

- Your mic's not good.

- And oh, okay it's on now.

- Just like a ice cream.

- Sorry, anyway I live in the CBD. And I've realised what's happening today. You're talking about the young people, and how everything should benefit them and everything else, but everyone has to live in harmony in the CBD. Did it stop working?

- No, its just dropped out. We've got it. We've got you back.

- Live in harmony in the CBD. And that includes all the other residents who actually pay rates and all that sort of stuff. So now I know you want to do a lot of benefits for young people, so that they have a vibrant town and everything else which is great,

- Is there a question Gail? Sorry to bust you.

- Yes, there is. In a few seconds. Now you are seeming to give a lot of youth a heck of a lot of leeway especially when it comes to having noise control which doesn't control anything any further. I've had to actually consult various members of parliament.

- I'm going to need to hurry you along Gail, sorry.

- And I want to know are you going to continue to allow clubs, nightclubs which are good for the young people, rave clubs from 10 o'clock at night through till four o'clock in the morning, absolutely annoying anybody and everybody within a four block radius. So I want to know, are you going to be fair with the rest of the residents that actually live in the CBD?

- Can I suggest, I'm conscious that I'm now running a list for the next sessions, the next session, the next sessions. But I think that question of equitable everybody and how can you comfortably live in a CBD and not be driven mad by noise is a really interesting topic. I know I live in the Viaduct, so I hear you. I'd like to hold, if it at least the panel has an answer for Gail.

- But it's not just the noise. It's all the other riff-raff that comes in and there's a lot of graffiti, building...

- Gail if it's okay. I'm just going to ask the panel. If anyone would like to speak to your question. I definitely think it's a candidate for maybe a next time session. 'Cause we were moving away from...

- As long as somebody answers.

- Super conscious also that we've got to let you go so you can get home to your lives. So what we're going to do is one more question from Slido once we've wrapped up Gail. So I'm so sorry that we haven't got to everybody what a passionate topic that we all care about the city centre, right? So I hope that we'll see you again next time. Would someone like to speak to Gail, at what Gail's raising or is it we'll keep it for a it's the mix of the city kind of question. I haven't got an answer for Ashley yet but it's sort of in that territory.

- Just a very quick point as the city densifies you need to find ways for many different land use to work close together sound insulation, thermal, sorry, acoustic coherence is absolutely vital. I don't think it's something we do particularly well in this in city and designing buildings that do not let the sound in and out is a superb idea. And I support it.

- What I'm going to do now is ask our panel to give us a very quick fire closing, answer to a question before we invite Shane Henderson up to wrap us up for the evening. So I want to say a massive thank you to the audience, especially those of you that've been comfortable and paying attention in a beautiful, supportive way. The question from Slido it's anonymous. Forgive me, everybody. It isn't anonymous. Ladies and gentlemen on the panel with youth in mind because that is the topic of this evening's conversation ladies and gentlemen, if you could implement one thing from the city centre master plan tomorrow what would that be? Kerrin, can I start with you?

- Of course I have to say Māori outcomes right across the board. Kia ora.

- Thank you.

- I'm sorry. There're so many in there that I wish I could implement tomorrow but I just have to agree with Kerrin. I think that is a priority.

- Absolutely. And adding to that, I'd say that the other one that really caught my imagination from the plan was the plan around kind of connectedness, especially with that kind of that dead zone around the panel and just sort of really connecting that inner city through. I think we'll see some fantastic results.

- I agree with everything my panellists have said. I'd also put a big shout out for Victoria street linear park, because that was the one that people supported more than anything else. The idea of a beautiful... Beautiful public space across the city centre, linking Albert Park with Queen Street, the busiest street in Auckland going to link our Aotea Station, the busiest station in New Zealand, Sky Tower end at ICC, major destinations, linking that down with Victoria park.

- I'm going to have to wrap you up. Thank you George. Ladies and gentlemen, a massive round of applause for our panellists. Thank you Whenua Kaitiaki. The quote I'd like to take out of it is being intentional, which I think was Chamanthie's. Ladies and gentlemen please, can I introduce

to the stage the very fantastic Councillor Shane Henderson to wrap us up? Shane is the deputy chair of the finance and performance committee and Waitakere Ward Councillor. He's also the liaison Councillor for the youth advisory panel. Hence he is here with us tonight to see us home. Thank you Shane. Thank you guys.

- Quite like being called very fantastic. That was nice. Thank you. Shane Henderson, I'm Councillor for Waitakere. You're going to clap for a little bit here now. So warm up your hands, warm them up nice 'cause it's getting cold out there. Look, Auckland Conversations doesn't just happen. It does require resources and time and a lot of hard work and effort. So first and foremost, we need to give it up for our sponsors, a big round of applause to the sponsors. Wonderful. And I want to thank all of our speakers George Weeks, Emma McInnes, Chamanthie Sinhalage-Fonseka, Kerrin Leoni. Congratulations round of applause. My last round of applause. And then I'll wrap us up. With a few personal thoughts and a call to action. I've been told to give as well. So I'm pretty excited about that. So my last round of applause is I want to thank all of you for coming out tonight. You're all fantastic. Give yourselves a huge round of applause as well. So you may think I'm not the natural person to sum up today's Councillor but unless you would be of course mistaken as I'm the youngest Councillor, I'm also the youth liaison Councillor for the youth advisory panel. And I want to give it up for the youth advisory panel 'cause they're absolutely fantastic. They're awesome. They just presented to our long term plan recently and they took that with courage and conviction and they really represented young people's voice in city, fantastic. I hope they're all watching tonight. So can we get the youth advisory panel around of applause? Awesome, awesome. I'm here for another reason and that is that the Auckland city centre is fantastic for its residents but not just for its residents. It's a regional centre for 1.7 million Aucklanders as its playground as its economic powerhouse it's its window to the world. It's a nursery of opportunity. From Paprika to Brown's bay from P-hat to how our city centre shapes the experiences for all the young people growing up in Auckland and with such a flow from the suburbs our city centre has to work so that people can come together and enjoy our city centre. I want to remind you of two quotes we heard tonight. The first was I think it really was a clash between generations. That was very nice. I liked that one. That was Max Funderburk. And on whose side of history do we wish to be? Who was that? That was George Weeks. How good was that? I thought that was absolutely beautiful, but it's no use for us to just shift economic activity from city centre to suburbia back to city centre. That's no use, that's not Auckland's future. I think that the city centre and suburban town centres need to work together so that we're growing our economic buy-in and we're enjoying our entire city. I was reminded Kerrin made a fantastic point as well around the challenges and the gap of social infrastructure in the city. Things like schools, things like . So for our youngest Aucklanders to actually enjoy that's a huge gap. That's something that we need to work on as a city and we have to do better. So that leads me to our calls of action. I've got a couple. So first and foremost thanks for all coming in. I hope you all took alternative transport. I think that's something we should be looking at doing the black carbon capital of New Zealand is lower Queen Street and that's all of Auckland responsibility. And when we debated this on council, I apologised for my community and Waitakere for doing that 'cause that is going to affect all of our futures. So please use alternative transport if you can. And my simple ask is to step out of your door in the morning and think, how am I going to go about my day? And if I have to drive, that's fine, no judgement but if you can take a bus, if you can take a scooter or a bicycle or walk, then I'd encourage you to do so. That's fantastic. Look, I'd encourage you to shop here as well. Our foot traffic in the city centre is down from pre COVID levels and we've got to get that back up for our economic

powerhouse to hum again. So come in here, buy some stuff and enjoy our local shops, 'cause they're all fantastic. I'll leave you with this. We have more in common with New York in Auckland than we do with New Plymouth, but here's the thing. Young people also want to raise a family here. They also want to participate in the city. They want to be a huge part of this plan. And I think that's fantastic. Our big challenge is we need to listen to the voices, our diverse voices, our Māori voices, our Pacific voices are female voices and our young voices as well. We need to raise those up. So just think about how you can do that in your daily life. That's my final challenge to you. So Peter Gluckman said recently that Auckland needs to be more ambitious and I couldn't agree more. So finally I'd say to lift up those young voices and to be ambitious as a city. Thank you very much.

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