

Placemaking and tactical urbanism

[00:15] - Courtney Groundwater

What we're doing here is tactical urbanism, and tactical urbanism is something that's really starting to take off globally in this sort of transport sphere.

It's using temporary measures to make change.

And it comes from a really grassroots community-led origins, but we're using it in more of a, official sanctioned way here in Auckland.

[00:39]

So we've got 21 projects here in Auckland under Innovative Streets using tactical urbanism to trial and test changes to our streets.

Tactical urbanism can be really useful in a number of contexts.

One, and the obvious one, is when you have an issue or problem on your street and you need to make change now but you don't have the money to do that in a really permanent way.

Other reasons that it's useful are when you want to trial something different. So you've never done this before. How will it work?

Or if you've come to a bit of a design stalemate where there's lots of trade-offs that you're going to need to make to do the design and you want to just understand how that will work in practice.

And the other reason that it's useful is if you want to work really closely with your communities, because putting something on the street and having them understand what it looks and feels like is much easier than them trying to understand from a plan what something might be like once you deliver it.

[01:38]

So we're here at one of our projects in the Auckland program.

This is the Arthur Grey low traffic area and this is an example of where the community had raised concerns about high speeds and high volumes moving through the local streets.

And the intersection here behind us is one that raises a real problem for children crossing on their way to school.

So the solution that we are trialling and testing here is closing off some streets to cars, but allowing people to walk and cycle through.

And we've used plywood crates to do that and painting on the road, road art, which really allows us to celebrate some of the culture and history of the area.