

STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

SEPTEMBER 2026



A Just Now, and the Library of Things

Central to the white paper I released this year is "distributed access": making it easier for people to access what they need locally, without needing to travel long distances. Local connection and sharing are important components of more local living. I was excited to read about ALoT, the Australian Library of Things. Tools, toys, books, art, nourishment: all close to home. Explore the Australian Library of Things community [on their website](#). Download the paper: [A Just Now: Redux](#).

Mobility parking: Seminar recording now available

It was wonderful to host dozens of you across online and in-person formats for July's seminar about mobility parking. With guest Paul Brown, we talked about the challenges and opportunities of accessible parking in the context of growing demand, and constrained budgets. A prerecorded [video of the seminar](#) is now available.

If you are a local authority or other organization that provides parking, contact me to discuss a bespoke mobility parking study to inform your asset provision, maintenance, and disability community engagement.



Video: Introduction to transport engineering

In July I gave a guest lecture to first year planning students at the University of Waikato. I like to start from first principles with students of planning and engineering: what is investment for? How will we know we are successful? You can watch a guest lecture recording I made last year for engineering students [here](#).



Upcoming training: Spring into inclusion

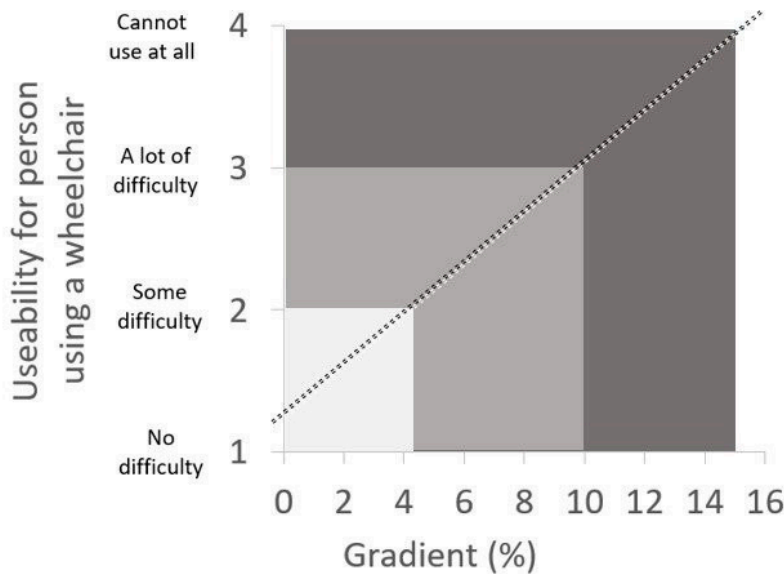
I regularly teach transport professionals, advocates and interested community in the science and art of inclusive transport. I partner with Safe System Solutions, Australia's leading road safety training provider.

The courses on raised pedestrian crossings and universal access audits are popular, unique, and enjoyed by participants.

Find out more and [register your interest](#).

STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

SEPTEMBER 2026



Graph of the Year! (2023...)

There are many ways to map street accessibility, but none as good as what I saw recently by Briometrix in Australia. Their maps are simple and intuitive, providing indicators of how much effort is needed to use a walking network. [Take a look here.](#)

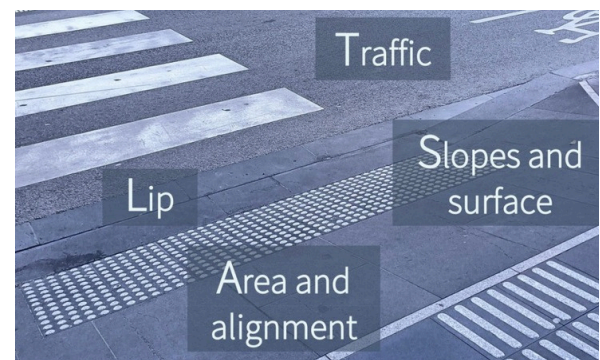
In a similar vein, in 2023 I asked 23 people who use a wheelchair to rate some city paths for effort. Then I matched those ratings to the typical gradient on the paths. It is amazing that an engineering-based profession hadn't done this before: evidence for who can and cannot navigate a public footpath. I am looking forward to a New Zealand future where we fix the basics (paths and kerb ramps!) and build the (ageing population) future!

Make it LAST:

The wonder of the kerb ramp

Kerb ramps are a crucial component of accessible journeys for many people, but I never learned about them in engineering school. When the Lip, Area, Size and Traffic characteristics are suitable, a journey can be comfortable and low risk. Kerb ramps are particularly important for someone using a manual wheelchair, but good ones make streets better for everyone.

I enjoy thinking about the interaction of accessible journeys, street characteristics related to safe system principles, and public sector constraints: auditing is never a case of listing all of a street's deficiencies. It's thinking about what barriers are preventing joyful journeys, and where the next accessibility dollar is best spent.



Bridget Doran (BE(hons, civil), MET (transportation), PhD (applied cognitive psychology), Chartered Member, Engineering New Zealand

I am a transportation engineering consultant and human factors researcher in Kirikiriroa (Hamilton), New Zealand. My work ranges from design and audit of built environments, through research and teaching on the interacting objectives of sustainability, inclusion, and affordable investment.