

April 2026 Meeting Report

This is a brief summary of our most recent meeting which can be shared with colleague councillors, and tabled at council meetings.

[2026 Town Hall Meetings - EOI](#)

6 members have submitted an EOI to hold a Transport Town Hall meeting.

[April Speaker: Prof Simon Kingham – University of Christchurch](#)

[Topic: Streets for People or Roads for Cars: How low cost changes can reap big benefits](#)

Prof Kingham focussed on low-cost changes that can yield significant benefits. He started by explaining that we should discuss “streets” not “roads” to emphasise their use for activity, not just transport. He discussed reframing streets as places for people rather than primarily for vehicles, citing research from Donald Appleyard that demonstrated how higher traffic volumes correlate with reduced social interactions and neighbourly connections. Simon shared findings from studies in New Zealand showing similar patterns to Appleyard's 1970s research, with lighter traffic streets facilitating more community engagement and social interactions.

Simon shared research findings about street usage and community engagement, and discussed the importance of creating "bumping and gathering spaces" in urban areas,

Simon presented examples of street redesigns in Christchurch, Auckland, and other cities, demonstrating how streets can be repurposed to prioritise people over cars.

Simon emphasised the importance of viewing streets as places for people rather than just cars, noting that while some drivers may dislike changes, residents often benefit from low-traffic streets.

[Ambassadors and Sub Committees](#)

Cr Liz Irvin (Merri-bek) was appointed as the MTF Members were invited to nominate to join the MTF 2026 Bus Forum.

[Council Transport Updates](#)

Ms Falkenberg presented on transport projects at Wyndham, including delivery of 63 kilometres of new paths, and implementation of electric vehicle charging locations.

Cr Ibuki introduced members to two transport motions recently carried at Boroondara Council seeking advocacy from the MAV to implement a Ministerial Committee to work on Strategic Cycling Corridors, and the implementation of Bus Reform in the North-eastern suburbs.

[Bus Research](#)

This month members will hear the results of the bus service research which will assist members in advocating for bus service improvements.

[Next meeting – 13 May 2026 – Advocacy Workshop 2](#)

The next MTF meeting will be on Wednesday 13 May 2026. We will further workshop how members and partner advocacy groups can collaborate to achieve their transport advocacy objectives.

Placeholder invitations have been sent to all members. More detailed papers will be sent prior to the meeting. All officers and councillors of our members are welcome to attend. If you are interested, please contact the MTF executive Officer.

We welcome your interest and comments, please contact us on mtf@mtf.org.au