



FACT SHEET 4

ROADS AND STREETS

Roads and streets are complex environments that perform multiple functions. Some roads are designed to minimise travel time and keep people and goods moving as quickly and efficiently as possible. Others are destinations where people are encouraged to meet and spend time.

What if one road has both roles? The function of a road or street can change several times as you move along that road or street. A street will operate differently as you travel through an activity centre when compared to the same street operating in an unconstrained environment outside of a centre.

For example the area near the corner of Oxford and Newcastle Streets has cafes and shops that encourage people to meet and spend time. Vehicle traffic is one lane in each direction, with reduced speed and there is provision made for walking by broad footpaths shaded by awnings. It differs from the Oxford Street near the corner of Galwey Street, where emphasis is on efficient movement, mainly by car, bicycle or walking to access the businesses or residences in this location.

Another factor influencing the function of a street is the time of day and the time of week or year. A street may be a popular destination in the evening but function to move traffic during the morning and afternoon peak periods.

This complex relationship means that we need to carefully consider the way we use our roads and streets, recognise their placemaking activities and the choices we make when we choose to travel.

