



Stadt Zürich

# Quartierblöcke (Superblocks) Zurich

IMPACTS conference  
Rome, April 10th 2025



# 1 Introduction

# More Space for Neighborhood Life

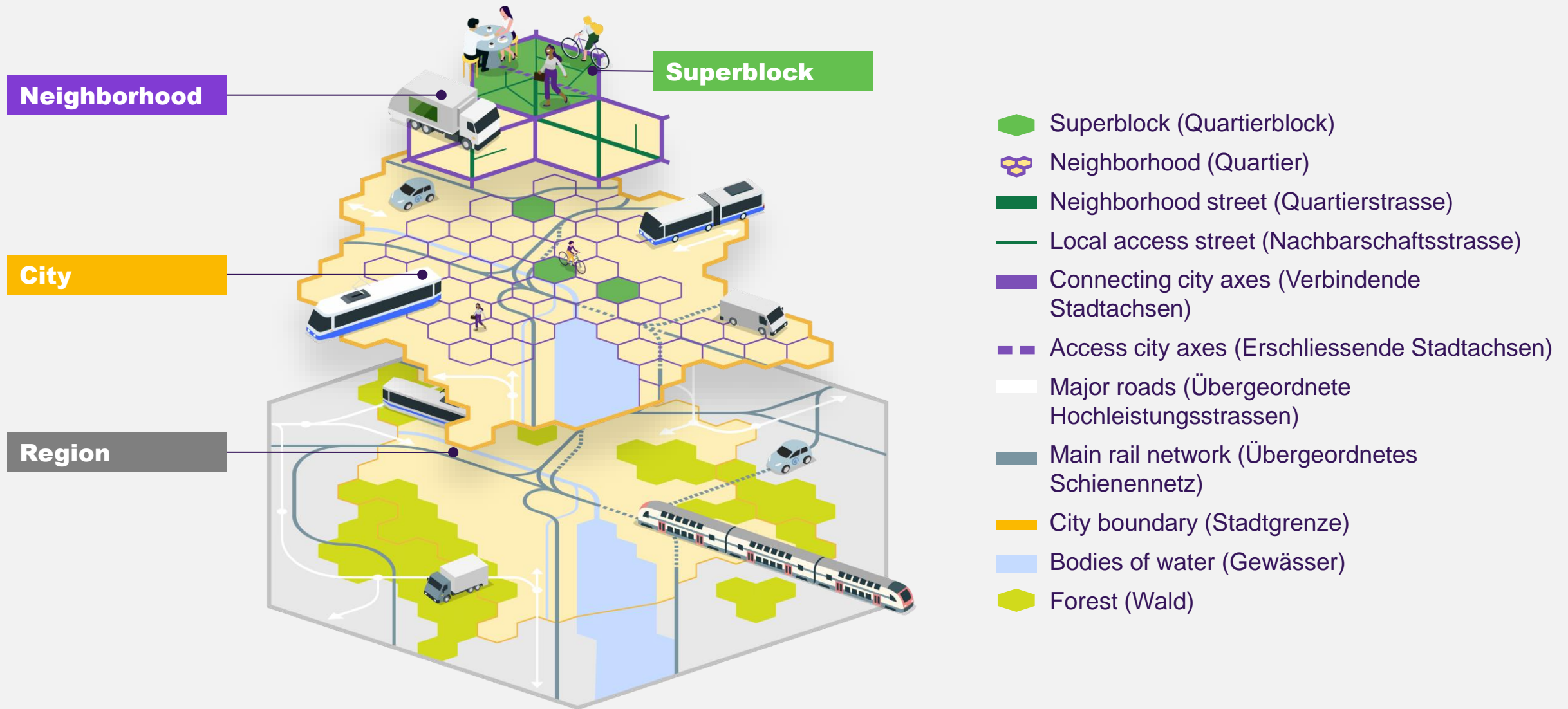
## Zurich's Superblocks Initiative

- Zurich is growing and urban spaces must adapt.
- The Superblocks (Quartierblöcke) initiative aims to reduce through traffic, enhance green spaces, and create more space for neighborhood life.
- Embedded in Zurich's Strategy for Urban Space and Mobility 2040.
- Implementation follows a step-by-step approach with pilot projects.



# Strategy for Urban Space and Mobility 2040.

## Three levels of mobility organisation:



# **2 Why are we introducing Superblocks?**

# Growing Public Demand

- Surveys indicate a strong desire for less traffic and more green space.
- Residents and organizations have actively proposed areas for Superblocks.
- City Council (2022) commissioned the City of Zürich to start pilot projects for the implementation of Superblocks.



# **3 What is a Zurich-Superblock?**

# Defining our Superblock

## Pilot Projects

- City structure and local laws are different from the ones in Barcelona, Berlin or Vienna.
- Our Superblocks is defined by main roads, tramlines or emergency routes.
- Selection of four pilot areas with stakeholders:
  - Interest from neighborhood to introduce a Superblock,
  - Heat-hot spots, lack of green in public space,
  - Different neighborhood structure in order to gain the most results of the pilot project,
  - Neighborhoods with through traffic (more than 2000 cars a day per street).



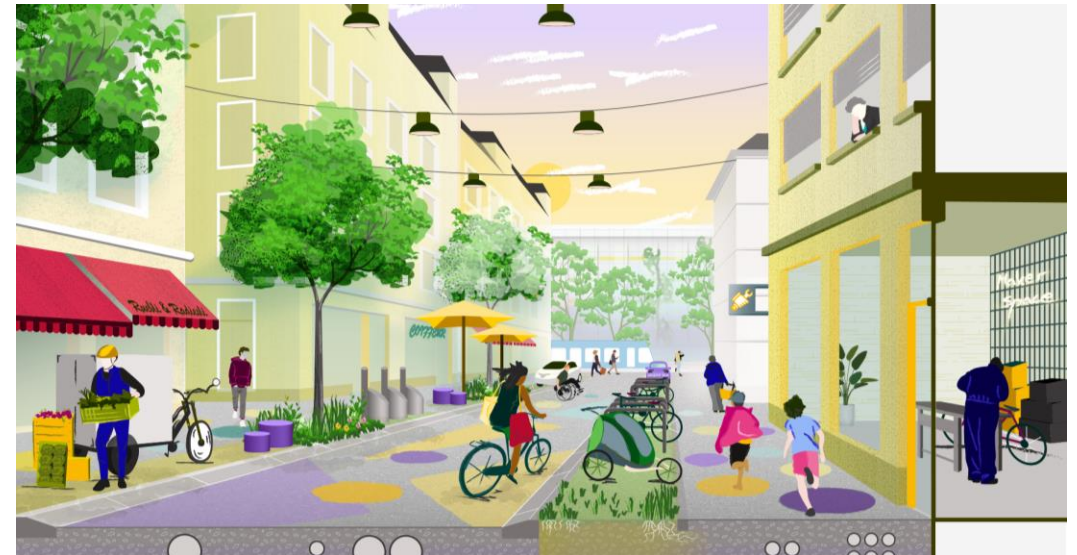
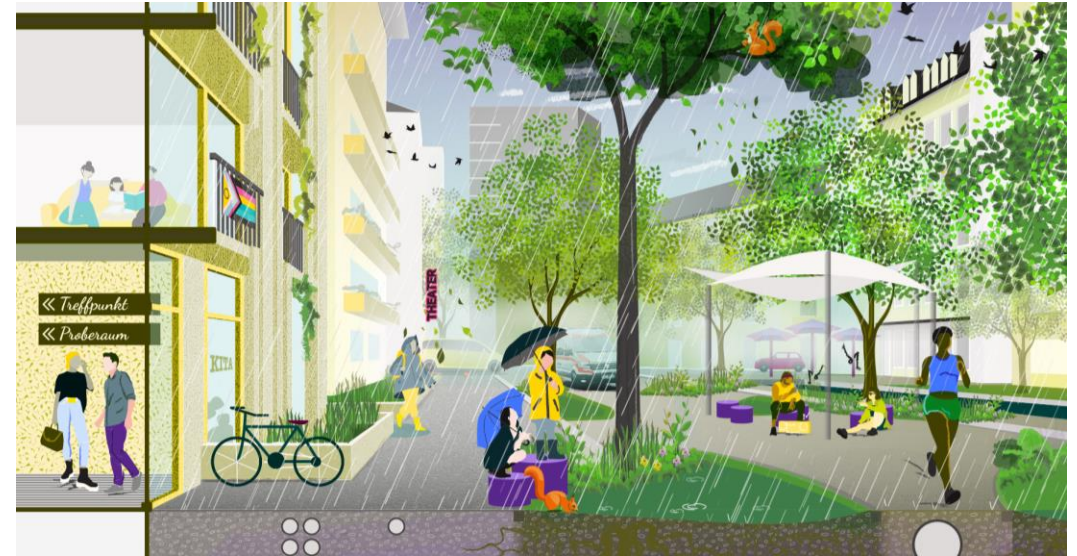
- Perimeter
- Superblock area



# What do we want to achieve?

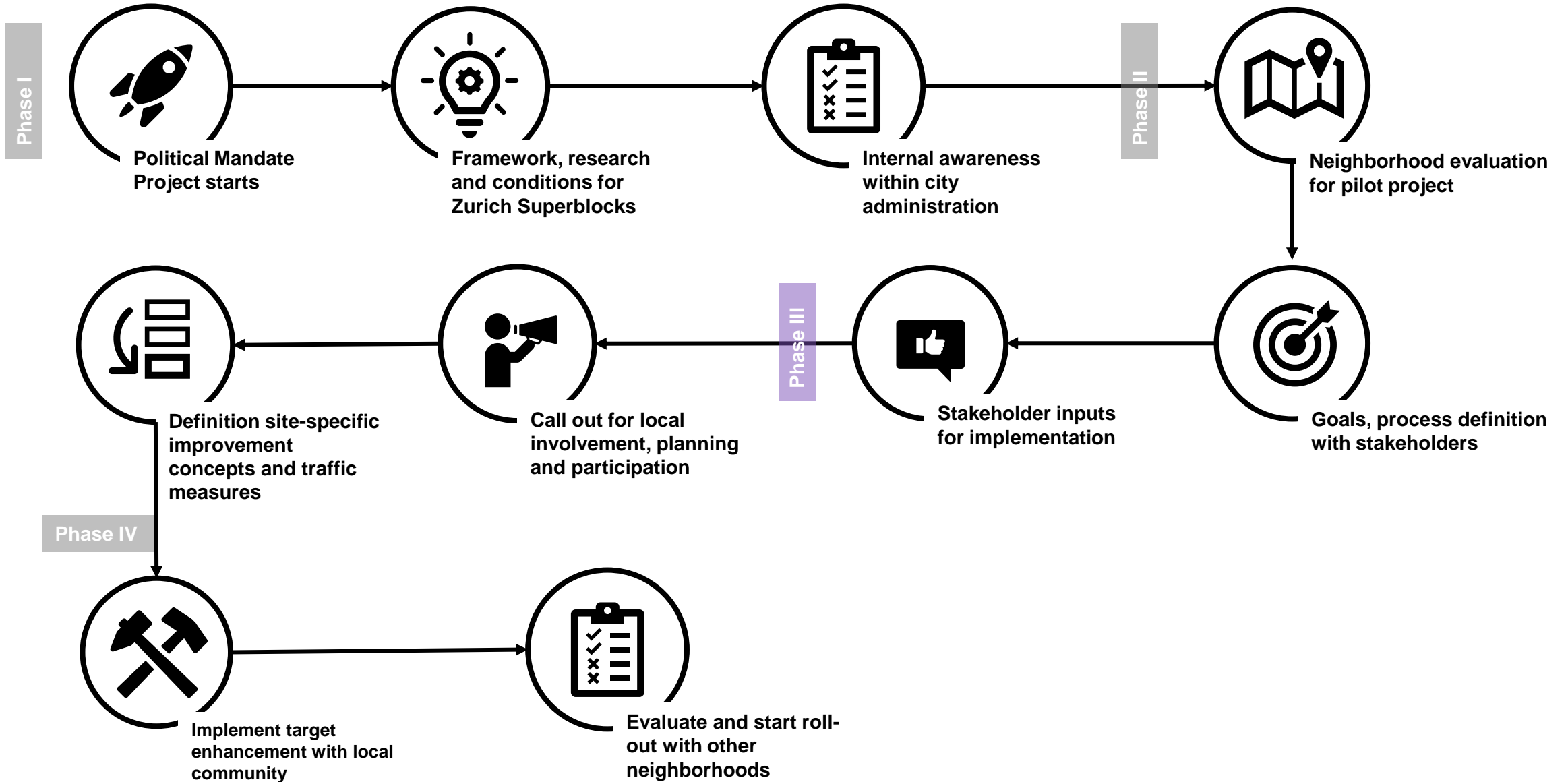
## Key features

- Creates community spaces (Neighborhood Hubs) for social interaction.
- Prioritizes pedestrians and cyclists.
- Improves school route safety.
- Eliminates through traffic while maintaining access for residents, businesses and emergency services.



# 4 How will Superblocks be implemented in Zurich?

# How are we introducing Superblocks?



# Step by Step Implementation

## Participation process

- City engages with organizations, local stakeholders and residents.
- Three events per pilot area, including workshops, surveys and site visits.
- Workshops with two local school classes.



# Step-by-Step Implementation

## Status Quo:

- Concept Development, Gathering insights, defining design principles.

## Pilot Project:

- Temporary elements are introduced first.
- Adjustments based on real-life experience.



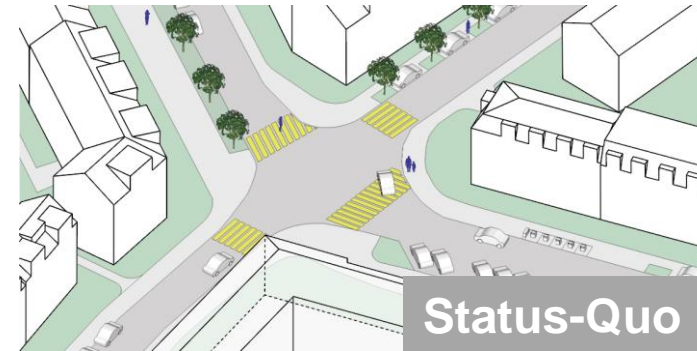
# From temporary to long term vision

## Long term goal for Zurich:

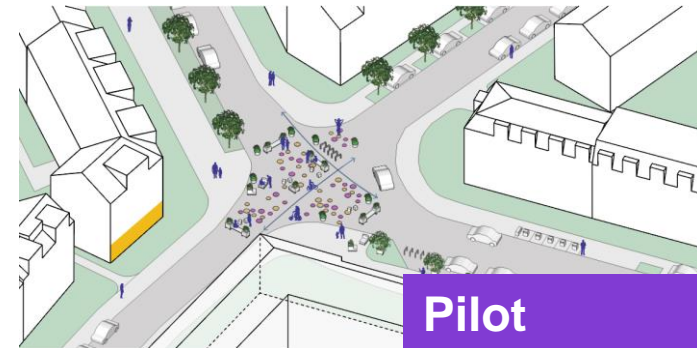
- Restore permeable surfaces and plant trees.
- Reduce vehicle traffic.
- Livable neighborhood-hubs.

## Beyond Pilot Areas:

- The long-term goal is a city-wide implementation, following Zurich's Urban Space and Mobility Strategy.



Analyse and collect feedback.



Temporary measures, evaluate and adapt.



Better air, more trees, more neighborhood-hubs. Repeat process and implement more superblocks.

# 5 Learnings and conclusion

# First Insights & Learnings

## Added Value of Public Participation:

- Helps tailor solutions to each neighborhood.
- The participatory approach ensures that solutions fit local needs.
- Enhances acceptance and understanding among residents.
- Builds a common vision among city departments.





# First Insights & Learnings

## Key Takeaways:

- Superblocks must be approached comprehensively, considering traffic, urban design and social dynamics.
- Managing expectations is essential - Superblocks are an important step but not a solution to all neighborhood or city challenges.
- They are part of Zurich's strategic vision for sustainable and people-centered urban mobility.



# Thank you for your attention.

[stadt-zuerich.ch/stadtraum-mobilitaet](http://stadt-zuerich.ch/stadtraum-mobilitaet)

