

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Nelson Street Cycleway, Auckland: Phase 1 opening celebration
Date	1 December 2015
OCU number	BRI-0624
Priority	Routine

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone
Ernst Zöllner	Regional Director Auckland & Northland	9(2)(a)	

Action taken by Office of Minister of Transport

- Noted**
- Approved**
- Seen by Minister**
- Referred to**
- Needs change**
- Withdrawn**
- Overtaken by events**

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1 December 2015

Minister of Transport

Nelson Street Cycleway, Auckland: Phase 1 opening celebration

Purpose

1. To provide you with detail about the Nelson Street Cycleway: Phase 1, prior to the Phase 1 opening celebrations planned for 3 December 2015 from 9.00am – 10.30am.

Nelson Street Cycleway project

2. The Nelson Street Cycleway (the Cycleway) was one of the 13 projects that you announced in January 2015, would receive funding during the 2014/15 financial year, as part of the Government's Urban Cycleways Programme (UCP).
3. The UCP involves central government partnering with local government to accelerate the delivery of \$333 million of key cycle projects around New Zealand over the next three years.
4. The \$18 million (Phase 1 and 2) Cycleway project is funded predominantly by a \$12.6 million Government investment through the Urban Cycleways Fund (UCF) and the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF).
5. This major Government contribution will create a more user-friendly cycleway network across Auckland encouraging more people to cycle more safely, more often. The Cycleway significantly improves cycling infrastructure in Auckland's city centre by providing a vital link in the Auckland Cycle Network, connecting existing cycleways (Grafton Gully and Northwestern Cycleways) and Upper Queen Street with Quay Street. (Refer to map attached as Appendix one.)
6. The Cycleway is being jointly delivered on behalf of the Government in two phases by the NZ Transport Agency, Auckland Council and Auckland Transport.
 - Phase 1 completion sees Upper Queen Street connecting with the old Nelson Street off-ramp by the new Canada Street Bridge, which crosses the Central Motorway Junction. The Cycleway then continues down Nelson Street to Victoria Street. It is 1.9 kilometres long. (Conceptual images for Phase 1 are attached as Appendix two – Artists Impressions of Phase 1.)
 - Phase 2 will continue the cycle route from the Nelson Street/Victoria Street intersection to Quay Street. Design consultation has recently been completed with the project completion date expected mid-2016.

Project costs

7. The total project cost for Phase 1 was \$15.4 million (UCF \$0.95 million; NLTF: \$11.65 million; Auckland Transport: \$0.8 million, Auckland Council: \$2 million).
8. The project cost for Phase 2 is estimated at \$2.6 million (UCF: \$0.8 million; NLTF: \$0.92 million; Auckland Transport: \$0.88 million).

Project features

9. Key features of the Cycleway include:

- Instead of having a cycle lane on both sides of the road it will be a two-way cycle route on the western side of the road whereby bikes can travel in both directions.
- The Canada Street Bridge has a unique and elegant architectural design and has been shortlisted in the World Architectural Awards.
- Motion sensed LED lights line the safety barriers and can interact and pulse as people pass by them.
- A strong magenta surface colour along the off-ramp will fade out into a Maori design.

Opening celebration objectives

10. The celebratory events for Phase 1 aim to achieve the following objectives.

- To celebrate the completion of Phase 1 of the Cycleway.
- To demonstrate the significant contribution the Government is making towards walking and cycling facilities.
- To showcase the progress and benefits of the UCP as part of the wider Auckland Cycle Network.
- To demonstrate central and local government collaboration to achieve a shared aim of a world-class shared path facility.
- To recognise the urban design and quality of the project and highlight the facility as a new pathway through Auckland city.
- To mark a memorable occasion for the local community and key stakeholders.

Celebration events

11. Two events are planned to celebrate the opening of Phase 1 of the Cycleway.

- An Iwi blessing: 3 December 2015 at 5.30am.
- An official event, including a plaque unveiling and ribbon cutting: 3 December 2015 at 9.00am, which you are attending.

12. These events offer an opportunity for you and other key stakeholders to take part in the opening celebrations.

The naming of the Cycleway

13. Local Iwi, with the Waitemata Local Board's agreement, will be naming an 850 metre portion of the Cycleway 'Te Ara I Whiti', meaning 'Lightpath'.

14. No active promotion of this name will occur prior to the opening of the Cycleway on 3 December 2015.

15. Auckland Council is proposing a social media campaign to announce 'Lightpath' for the 850 metre section of the Cycleway, after the opening is complete.

16. The name of the entire Cycleway will remain 'The Nelson Street Cycleway'.

Celebration event details

Iwi blessing

17. The Iwi blessing will be held on 3 December 2015 at dawn (5.30am) for Iwi partners, project partners, and project workers.

18. Iwi will lead the blessing, which will be followed by speeches and a breakfast.

Official event – Ministerial ribbon cutting

19. The opening ceremony will be held on 3 December 2015 from 9.00am – 10.30am for approximately 160 guests and 25 children from the local school – Freemans Bay School.

20. The event will take place at the Canada Street (Upper Queen Street) end of the Cycleway, nearest to the new Canada Street Bridge and Central Motorway Junction.

21. Speeches and the plaque unveiling will be held in a marquee on Canada Street, followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony on the new Canada Street Bridge.

22. The school children will be the first to ride the Cycleway and you along with Councillor Chris Darby will have the opportunity to ride with them or officiate the start of the ride.

23. Guests will be invited to walk the route at their leisure before returning to the marquee for refreshments. Drinks will also be available along the Cycleway.

24. A bike decorating activity, located outside the marquee, will be provided for the children while the official speeches are underway.

Key attendees

25. The key attendees for the Phase 1 opening celebrations include the following:

- Hon Nikki Kaye, Member of Parliament for Auckland Central
- Councillor Chris Darby, additional councillors and local board representatives

- Key staff from Auckland Transport
- Cycling customer representatives
- Contractors
- Regional Director and key staff from the Transport Agency
- Iwi partners
- Supporting business groups and agencies
- Freemans Bay School children

Other key stakeholders and media

26. The project has generated significant media and stakeholder interest to date. Therefore, we expect the Phase 1 opening celebration to also attract media interest.

Next steps

27. We will continue to engage with your office on planning and developments for the celebration events.

Recommendation

28. It is recommended that you note the contents of this briefing.

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Ernst Zöllner

Regional Director Auckland & Northland

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Hon Simon Bridges, Minister of Transport

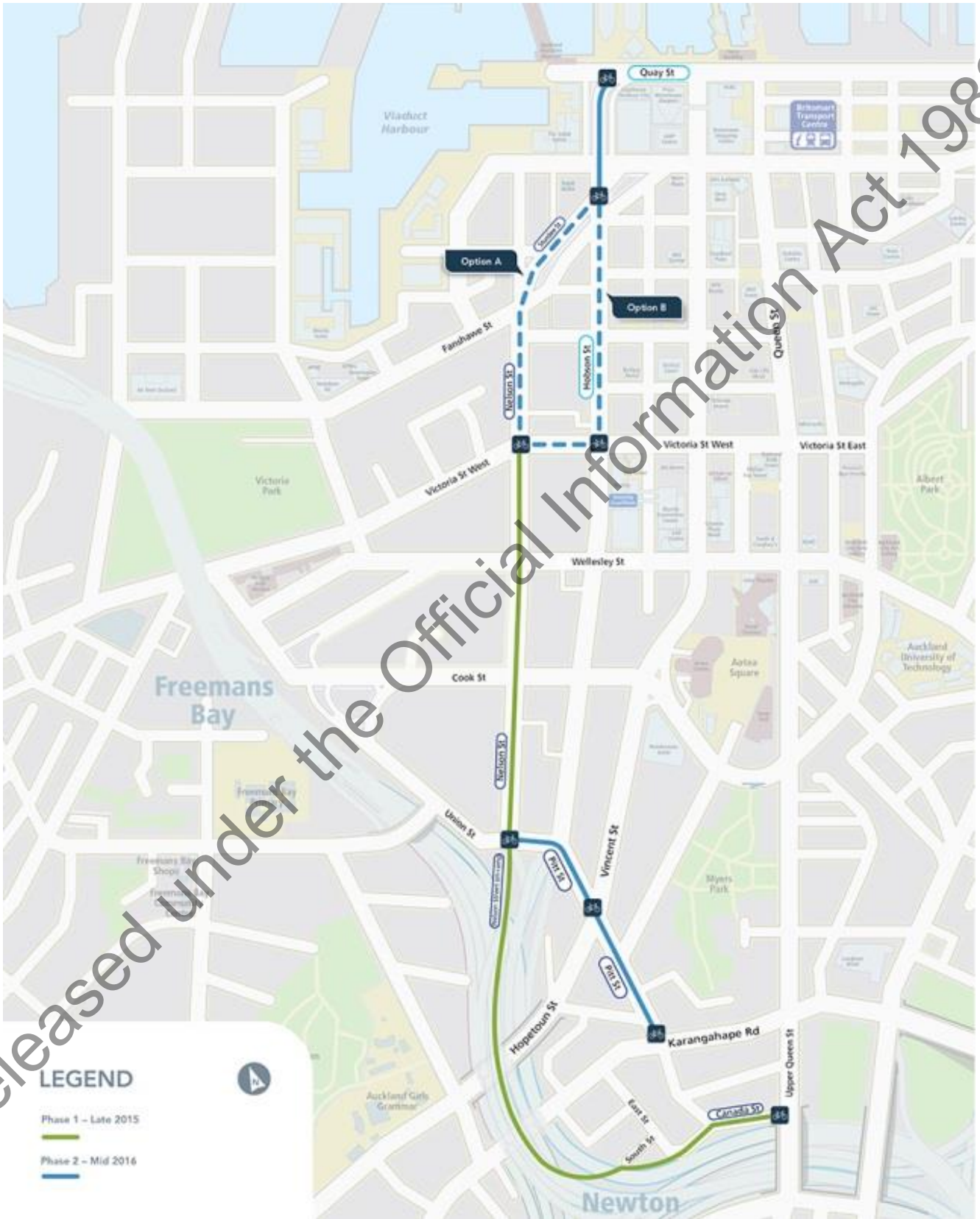
Noted

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Date

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Appendix one - Map



Appendix two – Artists Impressions of Phase 1

Canada Street ‘bridge view’ 1



Canada Street ‘bridge view’ 2



Canada Street 'street view' 1



Canada Street 'street view' 2

