



Consider releasing with redactions.

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Airport to Botany Project Overview
Date	22 August 2023
Briefing number	BRI-2849

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
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Action taken by Office of the Minister

- Noted
- Seen by Minister
- Agreed
- Feedback provided
- Forwarded to
- Needs change [please specify]
- Withdrawn
- Overtaken by events

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22 August 2023

Hon David Parker – Minister of Transport

Airport to Botany Project Overview

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the requested overview of the Airport to Botany (A2B) project and its interconnections with the Auckland Light Rail and Eastern Busway projects.

System overview

2. Auckland Transport Alignment Project has identified a suite of Rapid Transit Network (RTN) projects in Auckland's south and east that will together deliver on the vision of a more integrated transport system where:
 - a. public transport is fast, convenient and the mode of choice for many transport users
 - b. active travel mode choices are available because of a network of high quality, connected cycling and walking facilities.
3. The A2B project connects to Auckland Light Rail via the Airport precinct station/s and to the Eastern Busway project at Botany station to the south and north respectively, providing a continuous public transport spine in south/east Auckland.
4. The A2B project forms part of the Southwest Gateway Programme.
5. The Southwest Gateway Programme was initiated in 2018 to provide an overarching framework for progressing transport and access improvements in the southwest
6. The Programme overlapped three road controlling authority areas: Auckland Transport, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, and the Auckland Airport.
7. It included improved access to the Airport and better travel experience in south Auckland along key corridors SH20, SH20A&B, SH1 Southern motorway and the southern line rail stations.
8. The Programme has delivered Puhinui station and improvements along SH20.
9. It did not include Auckland Light Rail or Eastern Busways as it was designed to interconnect with these two projects as a system.
10. More information is available in the video here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzfh_ti6PSI

Airport to Botany (A2B) project

11. Strategic documents like the Regional Public Transport Plan have identified the need for a rapid transit system connecting the Auckland Airport, Manukau and Botany centres because of household growth, location of employment and interactions between these.

12. A2B is identified in the Auckland Plan, Auckland Transport Alignment Project and the RLTP as a priority project to progress due to the project benefits, existing network deficiencies and relationship with other projects.
13. As part of the Southwest Gateway programme, it has been developed with programme partners Te Akitai Waiohua, Auckland Transport, Waka Kotahi and Auckland Airport.
14. The A2B project delivers:
 - a. 18km of fully separated congestion-free Bus Rapid Transit corridor
 - b. 18km of new safe, separated walking and cycling facilities
 - c. 12 high quality rapid transit stations, increasing the number of Aucklanders within 10 min of a rapid transit station by 27,000.
 - d. a reliable 34-to-38-minute public transport journey between Auckland Airport and Botany
 - e. 269,000 additional people within 45-minute public transport travel time of the Airport in 2048
 - f. access and urban realm improvements to support investment in Manukau and the Airport.
15. There are options for staged delivery and delivering sections of the project within the next decade if funding was to become available.
16. While it could be delivered faster than other RTN projects, North-Western RTN and Eastern Busway have a higher delivery priority.

Current Status

17. Auckland Transport and Waka Kotahi are seeking to route protect the project by way of Notice of Requirements for 14.9 kilometres from south of Botany Town Centre to Orrs Road on State Highway 20B. These hearings start the week commencing 21 August 2023, with an expected duration of four weeks.
18. Community and stakeholder engagement has been an integral part of the lead up to route protecting this project.
19. The proposed route for the busway will have property impacts and the team has focussed on openly engaging with landowners and the community in the area as project plans progress.
20. The likely timing of implementation is 10 + years given the current available funding and prioritisation.

How Airport to Botany connects with ALR and Eastern Busways

21. The A2B project supports the Auckland Transport network to operate as a connective ‘hub and spoke’ system by connecting to four existing or proposed RTN lines (see diagram).



A2B connects to:

1. Eastern Busway (Botany); and
2. Southern Rail Line (Puhinui);
3. Eastern Rail Line (Puhinui); and
4. Light Rail (Auckland Airport);

Botany Station

22. Botany Station is the key connection point for the Eastern Busway and A2B rapid transit projects, connecting east Auckland to the Airport and to the wider city via the eastern rail line at Panmure.
23. Botany Station is part of the Eastern Busway project Stage 4 scope and deliverables.
24. It is anticipated that the timing for the new station may be later than indicated in the Regional Land Transport Plan (2026/2027) as Auckland Transport is experiencing funding constraints following COVID-19 impacts.

Airport precinct

25. A2B scope ends at Pukaki bridge at the boundary of the Airport precinct. It is planned to connect at one or two stations within the Airport precinct, which would be the connection point to Auckland Light Rail.
26. The last stage of the A2B RTN and the precinct station/s is being aligned through the Southwest Gateway Programme and the Auckland Airport transport strategy and masterplan. This section of the corridor is subject to ongoing design and master planning work by Auckland Airport and will be addressed in subsequent consents or approvals.
27. The identification, design and delivery of the precinct station/s will complete the eastern / southern / central Auckland RTN network.

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing.



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Brett Gliddon

Group General Manager – Transport Services

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Hon David Parker, Minister of Transport

Date: 2023

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