



Will be considered for release with redactions.

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Northwest Rapid Transit Stakeholder Breakfast
Date	22 August 2023
Briefing number	BRI-2855

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
Steve Mutton	Director Regional Relationships	Section 9(2)(a)	Section 9(2)(a)	✓

Action taken by Office of the Minister

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- Withdrawn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

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

22 August 2023

Hon David Parker – Minister of Transport

Northwest Rapid Transit Stakeholder Breakfast

Purpose

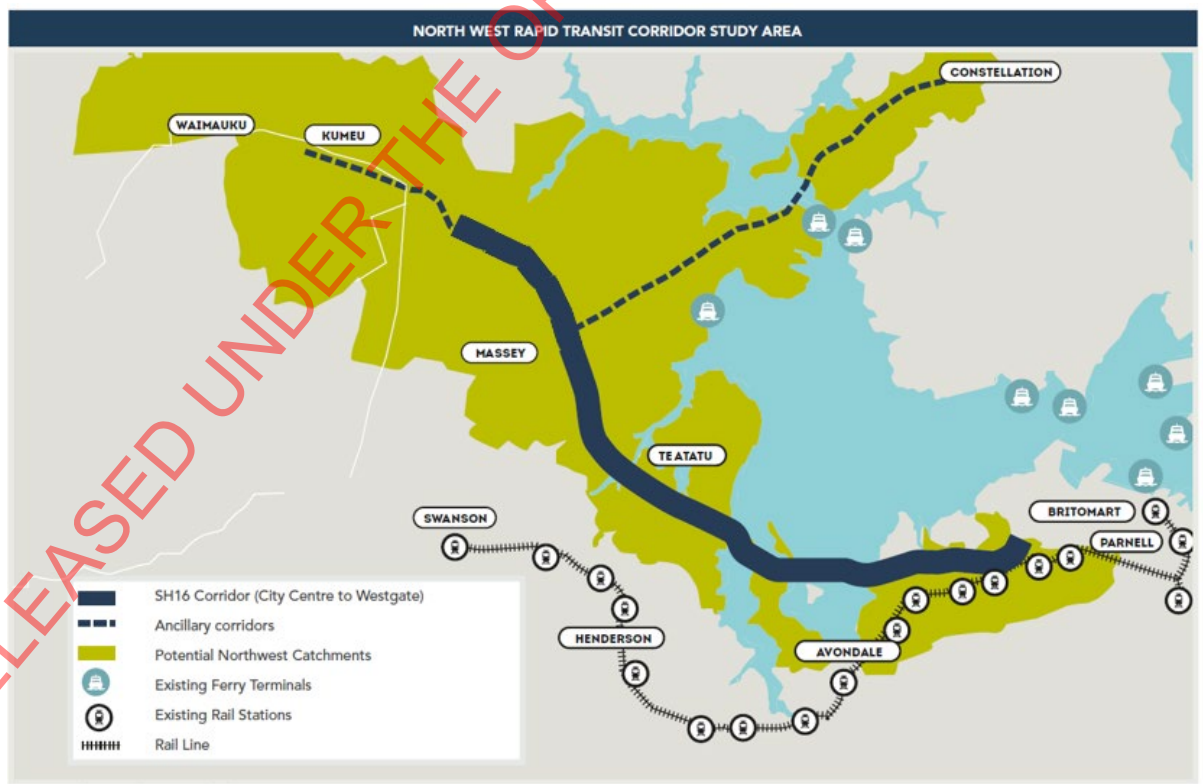
1. This briefing provides you with information about the Northwest Rapid Transit project, prior to the stakeholder breakfast on Friday, 25 August 2023 from 7.30am to 9.15am.

Project funding and costs

2. The budget for the Northwest Rapid Transit Detailed Business Case (DBC) is \$8.7m from the National Land Transport Fund.

Project features

3. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and partners are commencing work on the Northwest Rapid Transit DBC. The first phase of public engagement will take place between 23 August 2023 and 24 September 2023.
4. The purpose of the Northwest Rapid Transit project is to provide a fast, frequent and efficient public transport option to the northwest of Auckland, from Brigham Creek to the City Centre, alongside State Highway 16 (SH16).



5. This will be an important part of Auckland's public transport infrastructure to facilitate growth in the northwest, providing attractive and equitable transport choice, and encouraging mode shift.
6. This project will help to reduce reliance on private vehicles and help to build more resilience in the network while contributing to a healthier transport system that protects the climate.
7. This mahi is being led by Waka Kotahi in partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara. We are collaborating closely with Auckland Transport and Auckland Council who, along with iwi representatives, have members on the project steering committee.
8. The DBC process will confirm a recommended way forward for the project. The DBC will:
 - confirm recommended mode and route for the Northwest Rapid Transit, for an integrated rail, or independent bus solution.
 - confirm staging (and any triggers) of recommended options.
 - ensure affordable and stageable solutions are at the heart of what we are doing.
 - provide clarity on how this corridor interfaces with the wider rapid transit network and urban aspirations for the region.
 - provide a compelling investment case for the recommended option.
9. Further planning work will integrate rapid transit within Auckland's public transport system. Other key projects in the pipeline, or underway for Auckland's rapid transit network include:
 - Waitemata Harbour Connections (WHC)
 - Auckland Light Rail (ALR)
 - Eastern Busway
 - City Rail Link (CRL).
10. Separate business case processes are in development for Auckland's rapid transit network, including for CBD to Mangere (ALR, led by Auckland Light Rail Ltd), CBD to Albany (WHC, led by Waka Kotahi), and CBD to Kumeu (the Northwest, led by Waka Kotahi).
11. Confirmation of the final mode, Bus Rapid Transit or Rail, is required and must consider any potential future development and potential mode switch as continued growth occurs along the corridor. Transport demand for various scenarios of the wider rapid transit network will also be assessed, including a Northwest Rapid Transit-only scenario.
12. The overall route alignment and stations placements along the Northwest Rapid Transit corridor will be assessed with consideration to respective urban hubs and business developments, as well as key local feeder bus routes that will need to be established to support the project outcomes.

13. The investment objectives of the project are:

- providing an attractive, equitable rapid transit service that improves access to social, cultural and economic opportunities and is well integrated with the current and future transport system.
- a transport intervention that reduces Auckland's carbon footprint.
- supporting a compact urban form and enabling quality integrated communities.

Project context

14. Auckland's northwest region is experiencing strong growth, with an anticipated 30,000 new homes and 13,000 new jobs in the next 30 years. This is putting significant pressure on the North-Western Motorway (SH16), and existing public transport infrastructure and services in an area that already has a comparably low public transport mode share.

Key messages

15. Key messages of Northwest Rapid Transit include:

- The purpose of the Northwest Rapid Transit project is to provide an efficient public transport option to the northwest of Auckland, from Brigham Creek to the city centre, alongside State Highway 16 (SH16) which will facilitate the use of more sustainable transport options and contribute to a healthier transport system.
- This will be an important part of Auckland's public transport infrastructure to facilitate growth in West Auckland, provide attractive and equitable transport options, and encourage the use of healthier transport options and a move towards a healthier future - both for us and for the environment.
- Rapid transit along SH16 would complement the growing rapid transit network and contribute towards making Tamaki Makaurau a better place to live.
- The project will contribute towards creating a well-connected, equitable, sustainable, resilient, and reliable transport system which encourages quality growth as well as vibrancy and provides people with healthier transport options, as well as helping to move Aotearoa New Zealand forward sustainably.

Public engagement approach

16. Engagement will be staged in three phases starting with an 'inform and understand' level campaign:

- **August 2023 – Inform and understand** level approach to share information on the project and the outcomes of the previous Indicative Business Case phase. This will involve a survey which asks high level questions to understand how people currently travel and future aspirations on mode, route and connections, to help input into the initial DBC planning phase.
- **Late 2023 (TBC) – Public consultation on options.** We will share more information on the DBC process, what we propose and consult on key elements to help shape the DBC process and recommended way forward. Community expectations will be carefully

managed by being clear about which aspects of the project can and can't be influenced by community input.

- **Mid 2024 (TBC) – Inform – preferred option** - Announce and share the preferred option with rationale, demonstrate the ways we took public feedback on board, and outline next steps.

You have received the following briefings on this subject:

17. MIN-4263 Northwest Rapid Transit, 20 July 2023
18. Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport, week ending 11 August 2023
19. Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport, week ending 13 July 2023.

Ministerial attendance at the stakeholder breakfast on 25 August 2023

20. The event will be located at Auckland Council Henderson Service Centre, 3 Smythe Road, Henderson on Friday, 25 August from 7.30am to 9.00am.
21. Speeches will take place with a short question and answer section for the project team. See run sheet for more information.

Key attendees to acknowledge

22. The key attendees invited include the following:
 - **Section 9(2)(a)**, Pou Tiaki – CEO, Te Kawerau Iwi – Tiaki Trust
 - Te Tiriti partners and those partnered on the project - Te Kawerau ā Maki, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara.

Media

23. No media have been invited. However, some attendees (Greater Auckland, Bike Auckland, AA) may write about the event and/or share information about the project on their websites.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

It is recommended that you:

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



.....
Steve Mutton

Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau

.....
Hon David Parker, Minister of Transport

Date: 2023

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982