

Speech Notes

Old Māngere Bridge Replacement opening event

Speech for: Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

Date: Saturday, 27 August 2022

Event begins at 10:00

You will be speaking for 5 minutes

Acknowledgements

- Mana whenua partners
- Auckland Mayor, Phil Goff
- Ward Councillor Alf Filipaina and Local Board representatives from Māngere-Ōtāhuhu and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki
- Waka Kotahi Chief Executive, Nicole Rosie
- Auckland Transport acting Chief Executive Mark Lambert
- Representatives from Waka Kotahi
- Community representatives

Speaking points

- It's great to be here to celebrate the opening of the Old Māngere Bridge Replacement.
- This is a project which speaks to the heart of the transport and climate challenges we're facing.
- Our vision is that by 2035, Aotearoa will have significantly reduced transport-related carbon emissions and have a more accessible and equitable transport system that supports wellbeing.
- As transport is one of our largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions and is responsible for 17 per cent of Aotearoa's gross emissions, it's a sector where providing options for how people get around will help make a significant difference.
- Supporting people to walk and cycle within their community or to access key public transport hubs such as train stations helps to reduce our reliance on cars to get around.
- Decarbonising the transport system will deliver better transport for everyone in Aotearoa and contribute to more vibrant, resilient and prosperous places to live, work and visit.
- By offering choice and making it appealing for people to walk, cycle and use public and shared transport options - particularly in our largest urban areas – we will reduce congestion, air pollution and noise, create better places to live in, and support public health and wellbeing.
- As a result, we will have a more sustainable, inclusive, safe and accessible transport system that better supports economic activity and community life.

- The current transport system is also inequitable. Māori, Pasifika, disabled people, low-income households, women, older people, children and rural communities are often underserved by the transport system. To ensure an equitable transition, the transport system needs to be more inclusive and affordable.
- Achieving this vision will require transformational changes that will be challenging but not unachievable.
- In addition to providing an equitable transport connection, this project is also an exemplar showcase of what can be achieved when we consider the social and environmental benefits are part of our key objectives and have a clear vision that creating a welcoming place and space for locals and visitors to enjoy which reflects the rich cultural and social landscape in which it sits is as important as the transport benefits.
- As someone who calls Tāmaki Makaurau home, I'm excited to see the development of our city for future generations and how we can continue to create community assets which people are proud to have in their neighbourhood.
- I believe the legacy of this new bridge will be something which is as cherished as the Old Māngere Bridge which stood before.
- Thank you.