

NEW TRAVEL
PLANS TAKE
SHAPE ON THE
NORTH SHORE



The NZ Transport Agency has announced the latest design plans for a strategic motorway connection and new range of travel options on the North Shore.

The direct motorway-to-motorway connection planned between the Northern Motorway (SH1) and an upgraded Upper Harbour Highway (SH18) will provide the northern-most link in the Western Ring Route, opening up access to Auckland International Airport, West Auckland, Manukau and beyond (see map overleaf).

The new direct connection will provide an alternative route to SH1 for travel through the region, offering a different option for people wishing to avoid the central city. It will also help to provide a strategic route for freight to and from Northland.

The Northern Corridor Improvements project also aims to better manage the pressure on local road links in Albany, the North Harbour industrial area and other new housing areas being built further north and north-west.

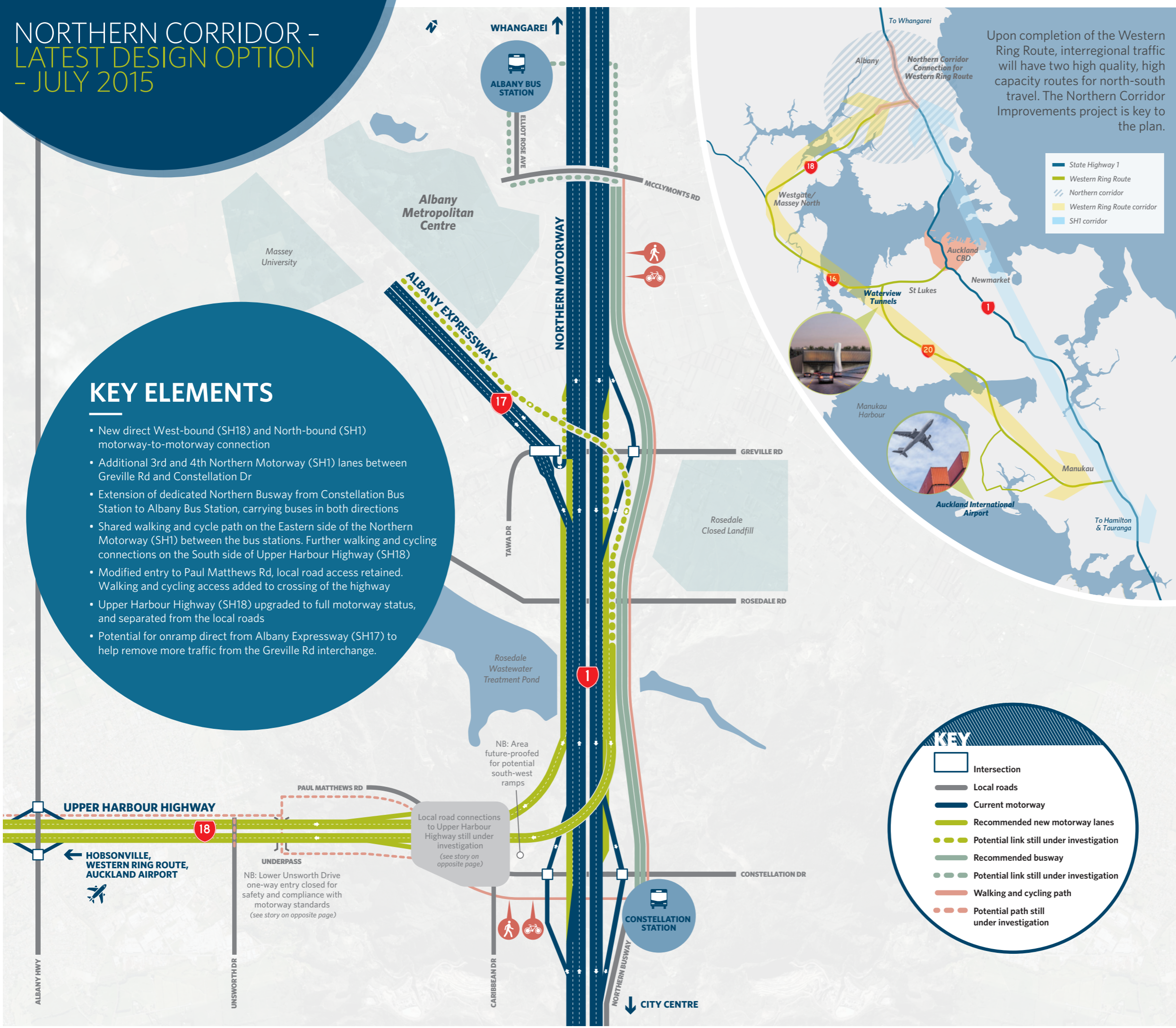
As part of the project, the Transport Agency is working with Auckland Transport on plans to extend the highly successful Northern Busway from Constellation Bus Station through to Albany Bus Station.

Over 5km of new walking and cycling paths are also proposed.

NORTHERN CORRIDOR – LATEST DESIGN OPTION – JULY 2015

KEY ELEMENTS

- New direct West-bound (SH18) and North-bound (SH1) motorway-to-motorway connection
- Additional 3rd and 4th Northern Motorway (SH1) lanes between Greville Rd and Constellation Dr
- Extension of dedicated Northern Busway from Constellation Bus Station to Albany Bus Station, carrying buses in both directions
- Shared walking and cycle path on the Eastern side of the Northern Motorway (SH1) between the bus stations. Further walking and cycling connections on the South side of Upper Harbour Highway (SH18)
- Modified entry to Paul Matthews Rd, local road access retained. Walking and cycling access added to crossing of the highway
- Upper Harbour Highway (SH18) upgraded to full motorway status, and separated from the local roads
- Potential for onramp direct from Albany Expressway (SH17) to help remove more traffic from the Greville Rd interchange.



Upon completion of the Western Ring Route, interregional traffic will have two high quality, high capacity routes for north-south travel. The Northern Corridor Improvements project is key to the plan.

HOW WE GOT HERE

Since 2014 the Transport Agency has been working with Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, local board members, iwi and businesses to develop a range of options for the Northern Corridor's new motorway connection, Upper Harbour Highway upgrade, the Busway extension and new walking/cycle paths. We also sought community feedback at a series of open day events in November 2014.

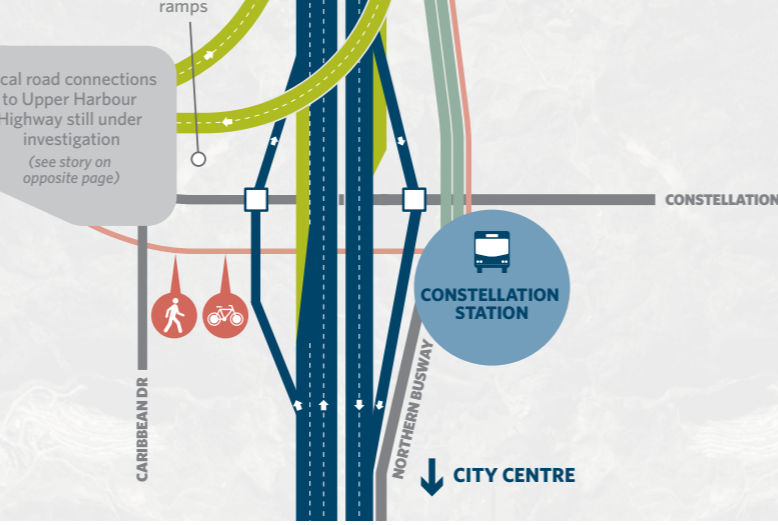
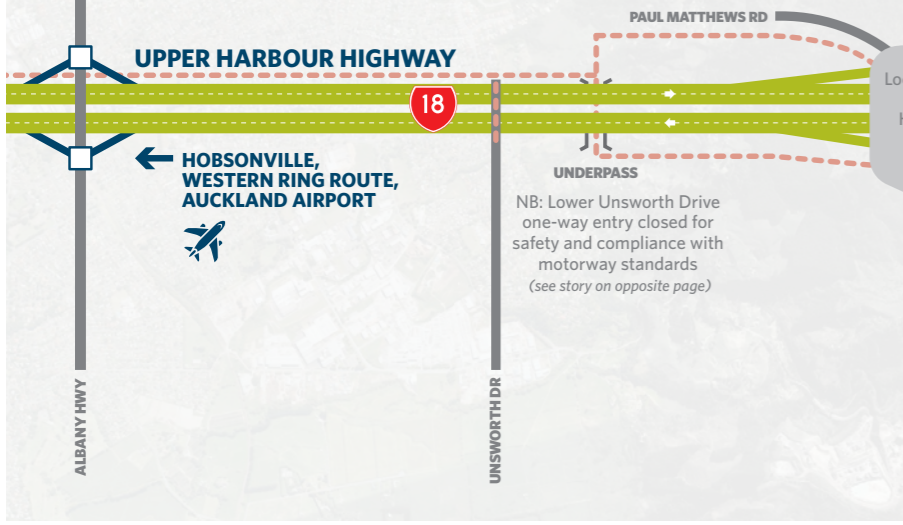
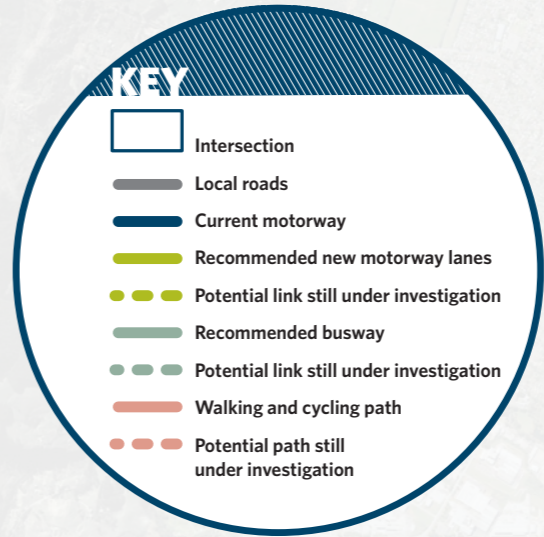
Since then, we've been working through the results of this consultation and a more detailed geotechnical, traffic and safety analysis. This process has resulted in the latest design options presented here. Overall, this design has the smallest "footprint" or physical impact on the area compared to the other concepts, and is the most cost-effective - both of which were key feedback themes we received from the community.

CHANGES WE'VE MADE AS A RESULT OF FEEDBACK AND ANALYSIS INCLUDE:

- More lanes on the Northern Motorway in both directions to address safety, weaving and congestion
- A bridge, instead of an underpass, for the new westbound connection to Upper Harbour Highway (SH18)
- A decision to retain the northbound onramp at Greville Rd
- Plans to extend the Busway on the eastern side of the Northern Motorway
- A proposal to include over 5kms of new walking and cycle paths.

WE'RE STILL INVESTIGATING:

- The potential for a new onramp straight from Albany Expressway (SH17) onto SH1 to help remove further traffic from the Greville Rd interchange
- With Auckland Transport, how the Busway extension will cross over the motorway and link into Albany Bus Station
- The exact alignment of Paul Matthews Rd and the new intersection/s at Caribbean Dr, as well as whether a bridge from Unsworth Dr over to Omega PI (either a low speed local road or pedestrian bridge) would be useful for the local community when the current one-way entry at Unsworth Dr has to close
- All other detailed design aspects including bridge plans, landscaping and urban design for the Busway, walking and cycle paths.



NEXT STEPS: WE'D LIKE YOUR INPUT

In September 2015 the NZ Transport Agency will be seeking the community's feedback on these latest design plans at a series of events. Feedback can also be sent to us using our online 'Have your say' form at www.nzta.govt.nz/auckland-northern-corridor. We particularly would like your input on the aspects below:

Find out how to give us your views on these key aspects by 18 September 2015 overleaf, either in person or online.

LOCAL ROAD CHANGES AT UPPER HARBOUR HIGHWAY

A central part of the Northern Corridor Improvements project involves upgrading Upper Harbour Highway and separating local road users from motorway traffic. At the moment, both types of traffic share the same stretch of highway, changing between 50kph and 80kph speeds and negotiating three sets of lights. We are proposing to connect the two motorways with a bridge and upgrade Upper Harbour Highway to full motorway status. This means high speed traffic will not have to leave the motorway and local traffic

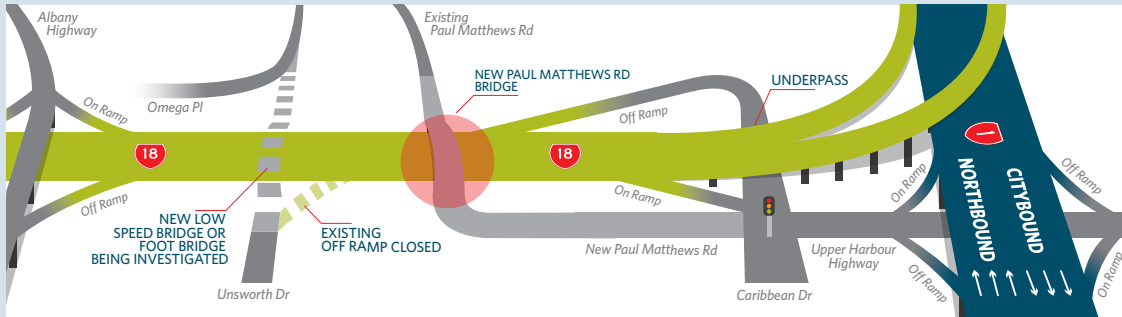
will instead use the local roads.

To comply with motorway and onramp safety and design standards when we make this change, we will need to make changes to some of the local roads that connect to Upper Harbour Highway. These are:

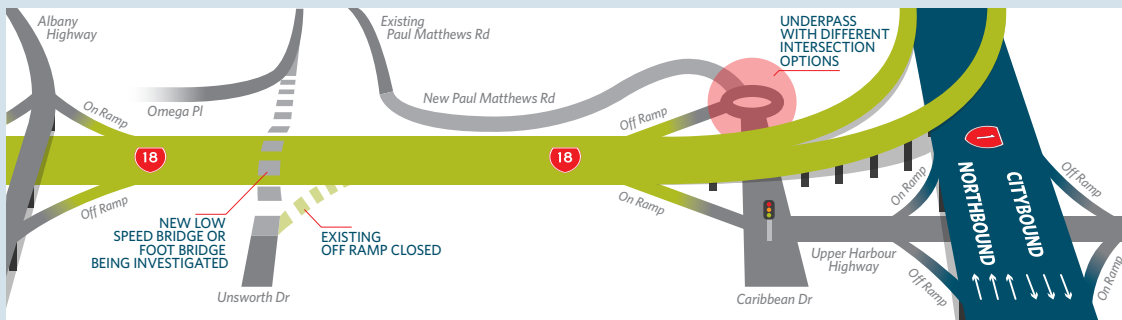
- Caribbean Dr - intersection changes required
- Paul Matthews Rd - intersection and road alignment changes required
- Unsworth Dr - the one-way offramp from Upper Harbour Highway would need to close. To mitigate this, a new overbridge to Omega Pl is being considered.

There are still multiple options for how these changes might look. All of the options are based on variations of two main base options, illustrated in the graphic pictured here. Some of the multiple variations are based on feedback the community gave us last time we held a public consultation. We are liaising with property owners to choose the most workable option.

We want your feedback on these options for changes at Caribbean Dr, Paul Matthews Rd, and Unsworth Dr/Omega Pl. What would they mean for you?



BASE OPTION -
Bridge & Underpass



BASE OPTION -
Underpass & Intersections

NEW WALKING AND CYCLING PATHS

In our last round of public consultation, you told us you would be interested in new walking and cycling paths between the bus stations, schools, sports facilities and other major destinations in the area. You also said you were interested in paths heading towards Greenhithe and the Harbour Bridge, and better connecting across Upper Harbour Highway.

In response we are now proposing a new shared path between the bus stations following the Busway extension, and multiple options and crossings for paths along Upper Harbour Highway, that link up to the new paths being built along Albany Highway. We are also working closely with Auckland Transport to ensure our paths link with other existing and future paths in the area. A map

showing how all these proposed new routes link into each other is on our website at www.nzta.govt.nz/auckland-northern-corridor. This proposal supports a wider \$200 million cycle programme by the Transport Agency, Auckland Transport and Auckland Council over the next three years.

We want to know your thoughts on these paths: what are the important aspects for us to consider?



NEXT STEPS: WE'D LIKE YOUR INPUT

In September 2015 the NZ Transport Agency will be seeking the community's feedback on these latest design plans at a series of events. Feedback can also be sent to us using our online 'Have your say' form at www.nzta.govt.nz/auckland-northern-corridor. We particularly would like your input on the aspects below:



THE NORTHERN BUSWAY EXTENSION

Demand is continuing to grow for bus services on the Northern Busway, and the Transport Agency is working on a plan with Auckland Transport to extend the dedicated Busway from Constellation Bus Station all the way to Albany Bus Station. The Busway extension would carry buses travelling in both directions, meaning buses would no longer have to merge with traffic and could travel at a consistent speed. This would speed up bus trip times and increase their reliability. It would also futureproof for the Busway to be extended further in the future to Silverdale.

The extension also supports Auckland Transport's New Network bus route changes, which propose that more people will transfer from local buses at these stations in the future, and use the Busway.

At our last public consultation, the community's support for the Busway extension came through as a clear theme. Since then, the Transport Agency has confirmed it is seeking to bring forward funding for the construction of the extension, to align it with the accelerated timelines planned for the wider Northern Corridor Improvements project. In tandem, Auckland Transport is investigating station options in the Rosedale/lower Albany area, and is considering issues such as the local topography, connections to residential and business areas, and how best to serve future growth.

Do you support the idea of another station between Albany and Constellation? What would make the station attractive for you to use?



GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

During September 2015 we are seeking feedback on these latest design plans. Your views are important as they will be considered in refining the designs. There are a number of ways to give your feedback:

- In person, at one of our events:
 - **Westfield Albany** – Sat 5 Sept and Sun 6 Sept, centre court location, all day
 - **Local businesses' coffee drop in session** – Tues 8 Sept, 7.30-8.30am, Café Noir, 7A Triton Drive, Rosedale
 - **Local businesses' coffee drop in session** – Weds 9 Sept, 7.30-8.30am, North Shore Cosmopolitan Club, 65 Paul Matthews Road, Albany
 - **Unsworth Heights community event** – Fri 11 Sept, 2pm-6pm, Meadowood Community Centre, 55 Meadowood Drive.
 - **North Harbour Business Association Expo** – Thurs 17 Sept, QBE Stadium (stand 80)
 - Anytime between 9-4pm Monday to Friday at our office: drop in or make an appointment. We're at 33A Apollo Drive, Rosedale.
- Or by calling us, emailing us or filling out our 'Have your say' form on our website:

- www.nzta.govt.nz/auckland-northern-corridor
- Email northerncorridor@nzta.govt.nz
- Phone: 0800 NCI PROJECT.

Your feedback needs to be received by Friday 18 September. In 2016 we will come back to you to share the final design, and our project team will start to work on urban design aspects, seek planning approvals and lodge resource consents. This may take up to two years. Construction is therefore planned from 2018, and will be completed within three years.

TO KEEP UPDATED – JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST:

To receive regular e-updates just email us at northerncorridor@nzta.govt.nz with 'Please subscribe me' in the subject line.



GREVILLE RD AND LANE WIDENING PROJECT COMPLETED

You may have already noticed a third northbound lane added to the Northern Motorway and changes to the Greville Rd interchange in the past year. We're pleased to report that our traffic monitoring is showing time savings for people's evening rush hour journeys home as a result. This work also included building a 1km bus shoulder city-bound between Greville Rd and Constellation Dr (making your trip faster if you are a morning bus commuter), and a new shared path that is helping pedestrians and cyclists travel along Greville Rd and Albany Expressway safely.

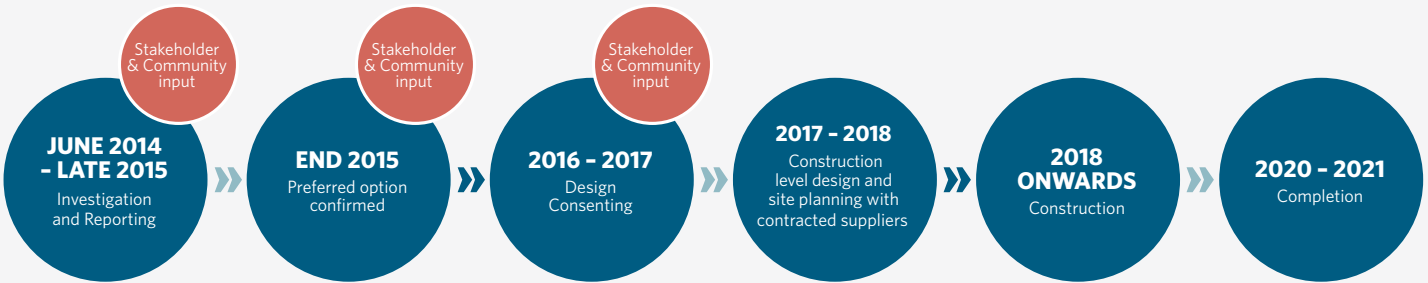
These works are also part of the overall Northern Corridor Improvements project, and were brought forward to provide some immediate benefits while the rest of the project is investigated.

WORKING WITH PROPERTY OWNERS

The NZ Transport Agency is committed to engaging with potentially affected property owners as early as possible while the Northern Corridors plans develop over the next few years. If your property is potentially affected, we will be contacting you to explain what might happen and the timelines for this process. If you have any questions regarding your property, please do not hesitate to contact the project team.



INDICATIVE TIMELINE FOR THE NORTHERN CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS



Produced by the Northern Corridor Improvements project team, at the NZ Transport Agency.

Phone 0800 NCI PROJECT, **email** northerncorridor@nzta.govt.nz or visit us at 33A Apollo Drive, Rosedale, Mon-Fri 9am-4pm.

Have your say, sign up to our e-newsletter or find out more at www.nzta.govt.nz/auckland-northern-corridor

