

Waitematā Harbour Connections Project

Summary of Engagement

Aug 2022-Jan 2023

How we engaged with people

Between August and January 2023, we asked for people's views about the Waitematā Harbour Connections project. We asked questions on how people want to be able to travel in future across the harbour, and to understand what is important to communities along the route.

This feedback helps inform our option development. There will be full public consultation on options from March 2023, with a recommended way forward for this city-shaping project by mid 2023.

How we engaged

1200+ people at 6 community events

250,000+ impressions via social media

76 attendees at stakeholder ministerial breakfast

2 primary schools visited

Feedback we received

4389 survey responses

80% of people support the project (data from our formal sentiment survey conducted with **1000** people)

Raising awareness

18 pieces of media coverage with **potential reach of over 19M people**

6 short videos released with over **10K views** capturing community sentiment and vision

2 project newsletters sent to more than **2000 email subscribers**

6 community events around Tāmaki Makaurau

Up-front sentiment research results

Prior to project launch we worked with a research partner to capture sentiment insights from a sample of 1000 people (750 Auckland residents and 250 Waikato and Northland residents)

Desire for future additional Waitematā Harbour Connections



8 in 10
Aucklanders

expressed a need for additional connections over Te Waitematā Harbour

85% of Aucklanders agree that additional harbour connection options are needed within the next **25 years**



The main motivation for additional connections over Te Waitematā Harbour was to make commuting easier

The **top three** reasons to introduce additional harbour connections for Aucklanders:

- 1. easier commuting **68%**
- 2. concerns about increasing traffic volumes **64%**
- 3. the need to improve productivity and enhance economic benefits **38%**

Use of existing Auckland Harbour Bridge

The survey found **almost every Aucklander** has travelled over the Auckland Harbour Bridge in the last 12 months

5 out of 10
Aucklanders

are frequent weekly users of the harbour bridge



50%

of all Aucklanders expect the harbour bridge to be supplemented by alternate connection options in the future

Community Engagement Events

We engaged at six local community markets across six weeks in the lead-up to Christmas sharing information, talking and listening to the communities in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Devonport

- Saturday 5th November, 9am-2pm
- Auckland Light Rail team in attendance



Smales Farm

- Sunday 13th November, 9am-2pm
- Hon Michael Wood officially launched the community engagement phase to media
- Northcote MP Shanan Halbert, Councillor Chris Darby in attendance
- Auckland Light Rail team in attendance



Britomart

- Saturday 19th November 8am-2pm
- Hon Michael Wood and MP Helen White in attendance
- Auckland Light Rail team in attendance



Highbury

- Sunday 27th November, 4.30pm-8:30pm
- Northcote MP Shanan Halbert in attendance



Takapuna

- Saturday 3rd December, 10am-3pm
- Councillor Richard Hills in attendance



Grey Lynn

- Sunday 11th December 8.30am- 12pm
- MP Helen White in attendance



What we heard

Survey questions were designed to uncover specific insight into how and why people currently use the crossing, and what they would like to see in the future.



This is a once in a century opportunity to lay the foundation for our future generations.

Please invest in doing it right first time. Having options to walk and cycle safely would be incredible. Key is that it is designed right so that everyone is safe and has their own space so everyone feels comfortable using it.

Focus on reliable public transport and discourage car use.

Auckland could be a world class liveable city if we connected the city better. We are lagging behind other cities in liveability which have nowhere near as beautiful a landscape or harbour, yet actually make it easy for people to move around.

What we heard

Our survey results show strong support for new Waitematā Harbour Connections

97% of respondents cross the harbour

30% of respondents currently cross the harbour by bus

88% said they would catch a bus or a train over the harbour if they could

66% would walk or cycle across the harbour

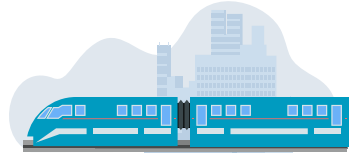
Most common themes in the open comments



Key destinations were **Central City & Takapuna**



Strong support for **rail options**



Reliability, speed and convenience are the most important factors in encouraging future public transport usage

Current bus trips are most commonly for **employment**, then **social activities**

Respondents said they would use more public transport in the future for trips to social activities, if more options were available



Open comments on cycling and walking connections were mixed

19% mentioned support for future connections

16% said cycling is not a priority

There was also strong support for cycling infrastructure sooner, rather than later, with comments suggesting a cycle lane on the current bridge

To help with the **decision-making process** on options in the next phase, respondents want information about **cost, timelines and modes**

School engagement

Following the commencement of the IBC phase, the project team began outreach to primary schools offering interactive learning opportunities facilitated by project experts.

These sessions consisted of an engaging discussion of the future possibilities presented by this project, and a task brief for the students: imagining and building their own future harbour connections.

So far the team have piloted learning sessions with two primary schools, Bayfield Primary School and Point England Primary School, with more planned in 2023.

Bayfield Primary School



Point England Primary School





How to contact us

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