

16

Te Ara Hauāuru – Northwest Rapid Transit

Fast facts

Northwest Rapid Transit

State Highway 16,
Brigham Creek
to city centre

Project phase

Investigation

Preferred mode

Bus

Proposed stations

Brigham Creek (with Park
and Ride), Westgate,
Lincoln Road, Royal Road,
Te Atatū, Point Chevalier,
Western Springs



More travel choices for people in the northwest

Efficient rapid transit is critical to making Auckland a better place to live and work. Easy access to education, jobs and opportunities improves communities and reliable transport choices gives people time back in their day.

With rapid growth in Auckland's northwest over the last 10 years, and 100,000 more people and 40,000 new households anticipated by 2051, traffic congestion and pressure on public transport will only increase.

As the northwest continues to grow, it needs infrastructure that will give people more transport choices, help tackle congestion and drive economic growth and productivity.

How we're making it happen

In partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) have been investigating rapid transit options from Brigham Creek to the city centre alongside State Highway 16, for people in the northwest.

These investigations have been focused on identifying an efficient and value for money solution that supports a great public transport service (fast, frequent and reliable), meets demand well into the future and minimises impact on people and places.

Working closely with Auckland Transport (AT), we've identified a busway as the preferred option, with a park and ride station at Brigham Creek, and new busway stations proposed at Westgate, Royal Road, Lincoln Road, Te Atatū, Point Chevalier and Western Springs.

Like the Northern Busway, the busway and stations are expected to be built and opened in stages to start delivering benefits as early as possible, making best use of existing infrastructure and providing value for money.

Why a busway?

A busway has significant cost and staging benefits over other options, and the design and connectivity to existing networks is also more flexible.

Faster delivery and quicker benefits

A busway can be built and opened in stages, so customers can enjoy faster and more reliable travel sooner.

Connecting people to other networks

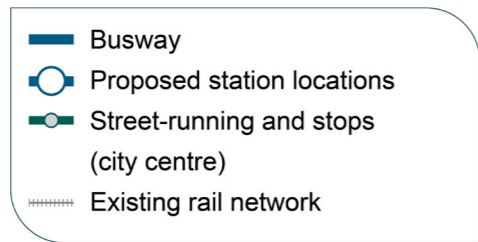
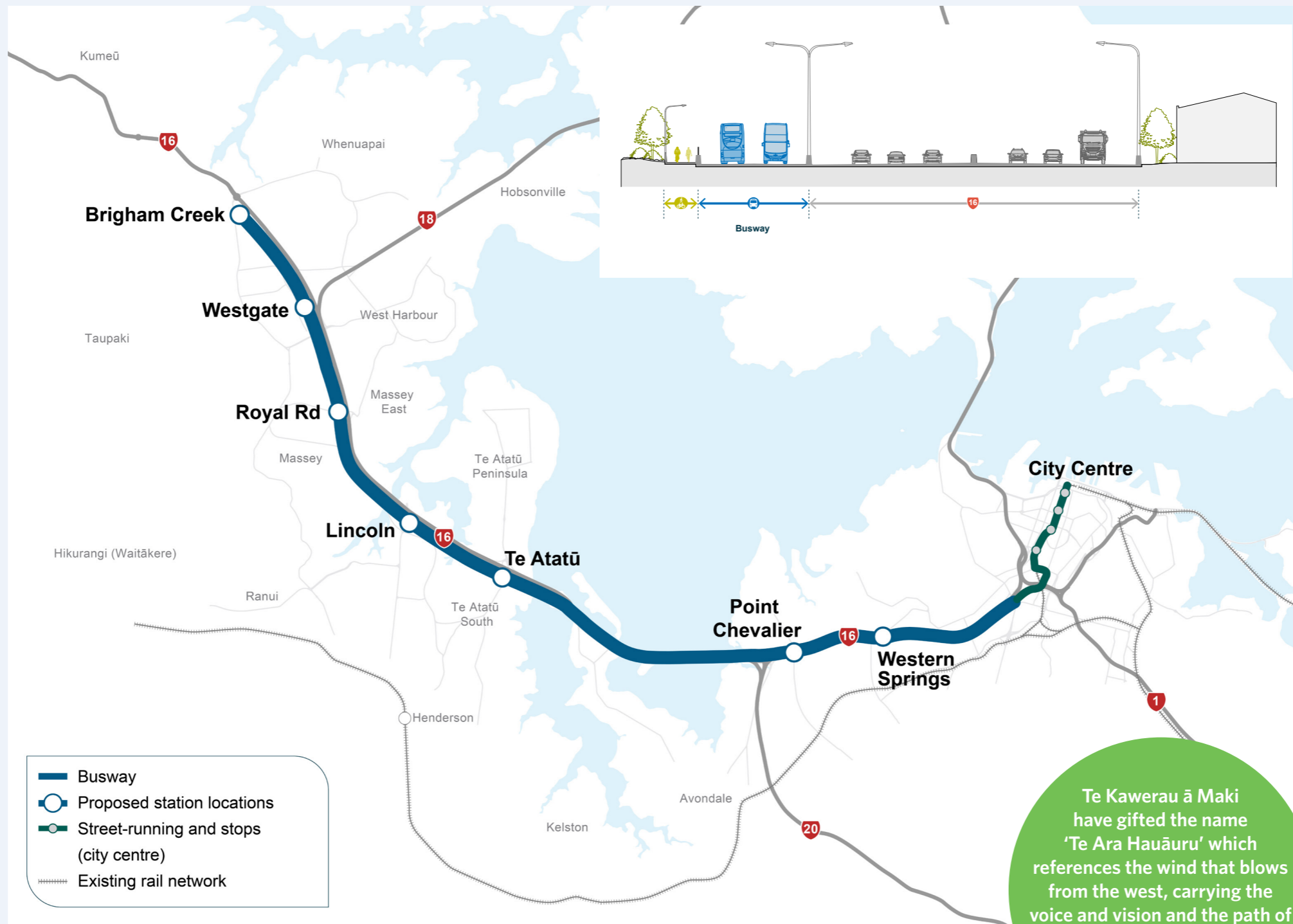
Integrating seamlessly with local bus connections and the wider rapid transit network, services can be expanded to more destinations in the future

Flexible and future focused

Anticipated to meet customer demand well into the future, we can scale up to meet demand by adding more services and introducing new technology, such as higher-capacity buses or trackless trams.

Value for money

Being able to deliver the project in stages means it can be more affordable. A busway is also cost-effective to operate, using existing bus fleets, and capacity can be scaled up or down, depending on demand.



Te Kawerau ā Maki have gifted the name 'Te Ara Hauāuru' which references the wind that blows from the west, carrying the voice and vision and the path of connection between the west communities and Tāmaki Makaurau.

City centre

Working with AT, the proposed busway will be integrated with city centre plans. In the initial stages, WX1 buses will continue to use Newton Road to access the city centre.

In the future, plans see the new busway link in with Upper Queen Street/Karangahape Road to access Albert Street and the newly completed Lower Albert Street bus interchange, where passengers can connect with buses, trains and ferries for onward journeys.

As demand grows, AT will look to provide additional services and routes, much like the NX1 and NX2 operate on the Northern Busway. A future WX2 service could use the same busway access point into the city but serve a different area. There may also be opportunity to link the Northwest and Northern busway services, running buses from the North Shore through to the west via the city centre and vice versa. This will better connect the region and reduce the need for large numbers of buses to terminate and turn around in the city centre.

Supercharging the WX1

The Western Express (WX1), a new bus service launched along the SH16 corridor late last year, provides a high-frequency bus connection between Westgate and the city centre. It operates 7 days a week and uses new and extended bus priority lanes. Interim bus stops and shelters were created at Westgate, and the Te Atatū and Lincoln Road motorway interchanges for connecting bus services. In addition, improvements were made to 21 other bus routes in the area, including the introduction of route 11T/W.

The WX1 is a popular service, with more than 500,000 journeys made since launching, around 50% more passengers than expected and more improvements planned. These include additional bus lanes on motorway on-ramps and a new fleet of electric double-deckers coming in April 2025.

The service was planned in the knowledge that a longer-term solution would be needed. The Northwest Rapid Transit project will build on the momentum of the WX1 by boosting capacity to meet the growing demand.

Westgate Station

Work is underway on the first stage of a new bus station at Westgate. It will be at the heart of a public transport network for the northwest, connecting local bus users with current WX1 services. We expect stage one of the station to open in mid-2026. NZTA received \$50 million from government through the Infrastructure Reference Group fund to enable advance delivery of the bus station.

The second stage is planned to be delivered as part of the Northwest Rapid Transit project to serve the future busway, and fully integrate with the local station.

Getting to and from stations

Access to the busway stations will be important to the success of the project. NZTA and Auckland Transport are investigating improvements to key local roads to make access to stations reliable, quick and easy.

Next steps

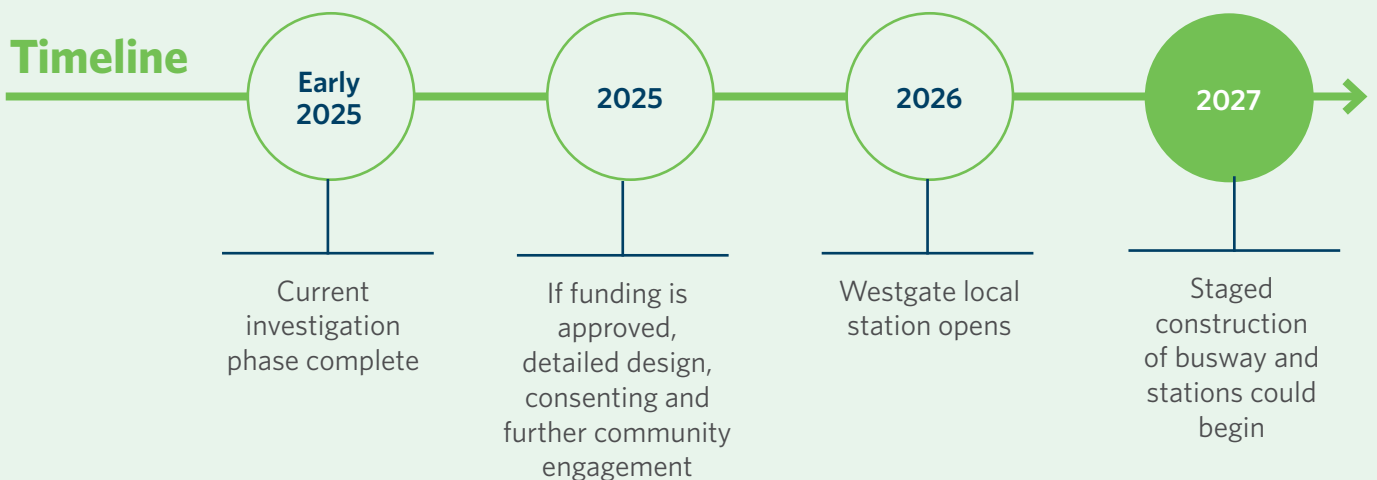
We're continuing our investigations and expect to share more detailed information on the alignment and station locations later this year.

If you have any questions or feedback you'd like to share with the project team, please get in touch using the contact details below.

An artist's impression of stage one of Westgate Station



Timeline



Contact us

For more information, check out our project website nzta.govt.nz/projects/nwrapidtransit
Email us at nwrapidteam@nzta.govt.nz or call us on **0800 4 NWRAPID (0800 469 727)**