

Summary of your feedback on Princes Street connection - Riverhead



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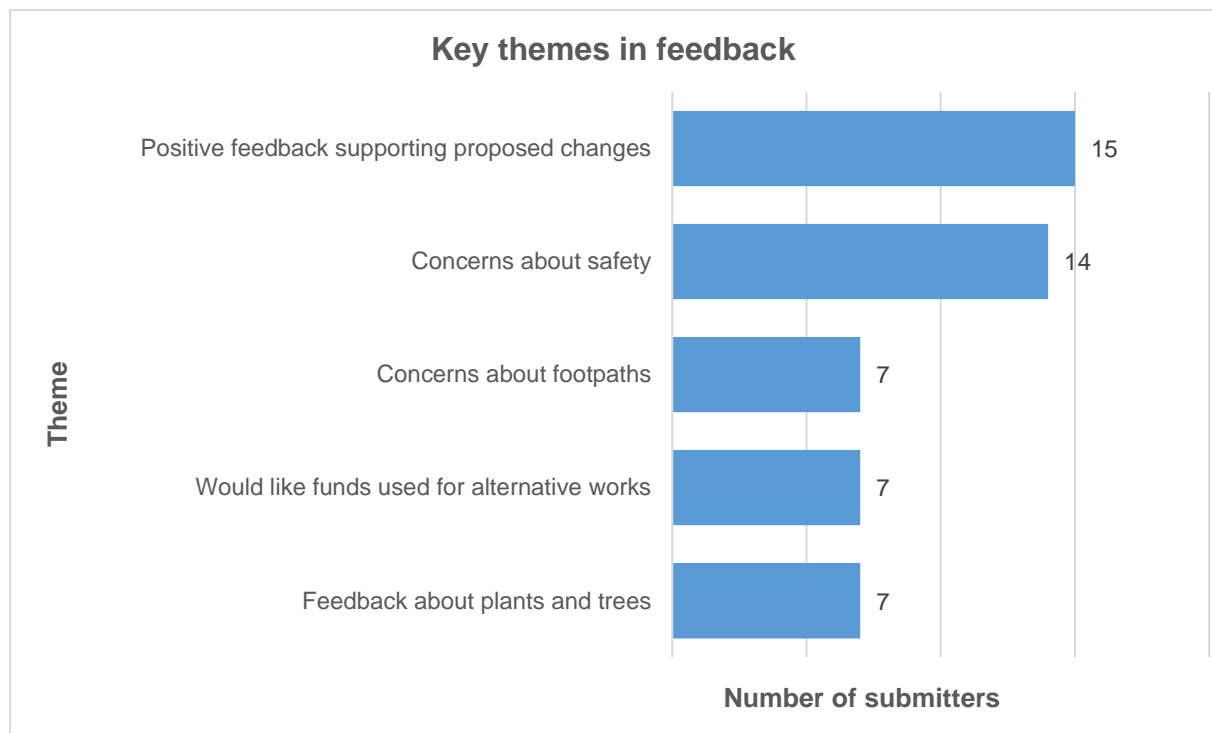
Summary

Auckland Transport (AT) proposed to connect the two separate sections of Princes Street in Riverhead together to improve the efficiency and function of the street. We consulted on this proposal from 25 June to 15 July 2018 and received 39 submissions.

Key themes in feedback

From your feedback we identified the following key themes:

- Disagree with the proposal (51%)
- Positive feedback supporting proposed changes (38%)
- Concerns about safety (36%)
- Concerns about footpaths (18%)
- Would like funds used for alternative works (18%)
- Feedback about plants and trees (18%)



Based on 39 submissions. Submissions may be counted in more than one theme.

Consultation outcome

AT has read and reviewed all feedback received during the consultation and carefully thought about what residents want as well as what funding options are available. As a direct result of feedback and further investigation, as well as funding uncertainty **we have decided not to proceed with this proposal.**

Background

Project information

Auckland Transport (AT) is working to deliver an effective transportation network that keeps Auckland moving and work alongside communities to meet their needs.

As part of this long term plan, AT are looking to connect the two separate sections of Princes Street in Riverhead together, in order to improve the efficiency and function of the street.

The benefits of the proposed changes include:

- Improved facilities for pedestrians.
- Improved aesthetic of the area.
- Better road connectivity for a growing community.
- Improved access for emergency vehicles and waste collection services.



Proposed Improvements

We are proposing the following changes for the Princes Street connection in Riverhead:

- Construct a new road connection to connect the two separate sections of Princes Street.
- Excavate the berm.
- Remove wattle trees opposite George Street along existing paper road.
- Pedestrian improvements:
 - Construct a footpath on the north side.
 - Add a pram crossing at the George Street intersection to improve safety for pedestrians.
- Road and safety improvements:
 - Investigate the addition of one street light.
 - Remove existing wattle trees to ensure thoroughfare and adequate visibility for vehicles.

Consultation

Local knowledge is very important to Auckland Transport and public feedback helps to ensure the best outcome for those who live, work and play in the area. We sought feedback from residents and stakeholder groups on the proposed changes from 25 June to 15 July 2018.

Activities to raise awareness

To let you know about our consultation, we:

- mailed letters and feedback forms to households within the area
- hand-delivered letters to properties beside the proposed connection area
- set up a project webpage and an online feedback form on our website
- Engaged with Rodney Local Board and Riverhead Residents Association.

Giving feedback

We asked for your feedback and thoughts on the proposed changes. You could provide feedback using an online submission form (on our [Have Your Say website](#)) or a freepost form enclosed with the posted letter. See [Attachment 1](#) at the end of this report for a copy of the feedback form.

Your feedback

Overview

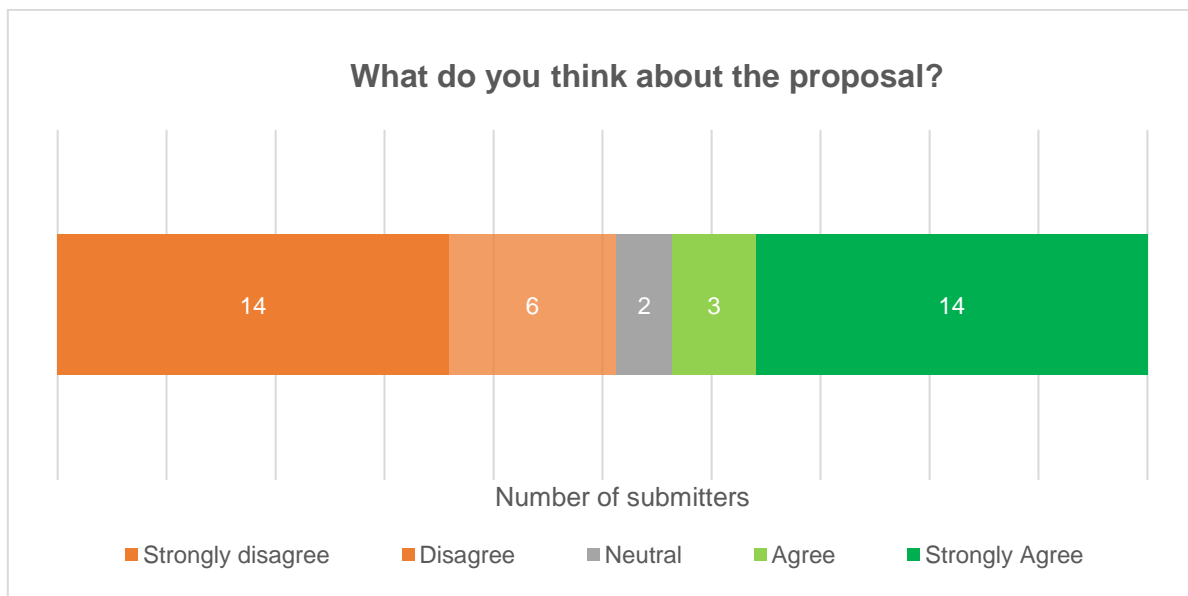
We received public feedback on the proposal from 39 submitters.

- 26 of these were submitted online and 12 were submitted using the freepost feedback form and one submission was received via email.

All suggestions from this feedback have been included in the list of [design suggestions](#).

Overall support for proposal

We asked you to rate your thoughts on the proposed changes from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”.

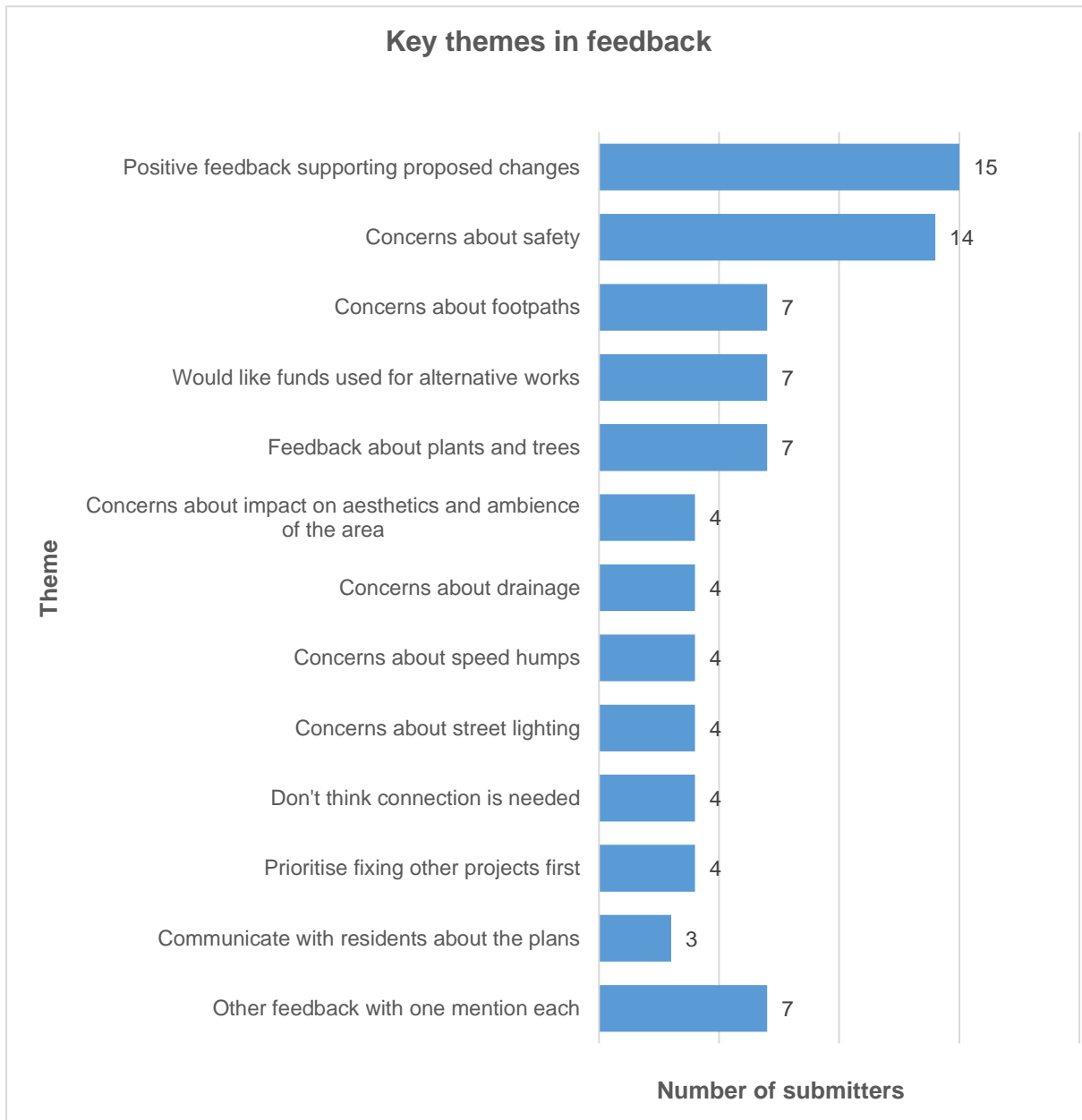


Based on 39 submissions. Submissions counted in one category only.

Thoughts on the proposed changes are fairly polarised with slightly more disagreeing with the proposal than agreeing.

Themes in feedback

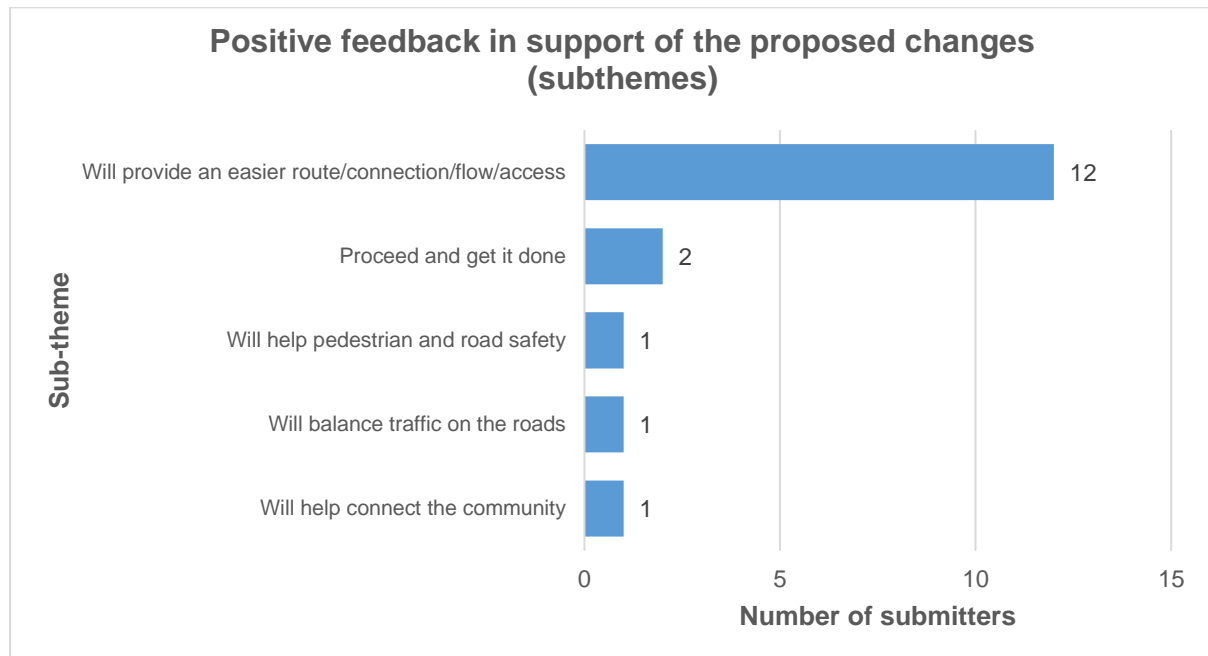
We have analysed the public feedback to identify key themes.



Based on 39 submissions. Submissions may be counted in more than one theme.

Positive feedback supporting proposed changes (subthemes)

15 submitters made positive comments in support of the proposed changes.



Based on 15 submissions. Submissions may be counted in more than one sub-theme.

The most mentioned reason for supporting the changes is that the proposed connection will make access in the area easier (n=12).

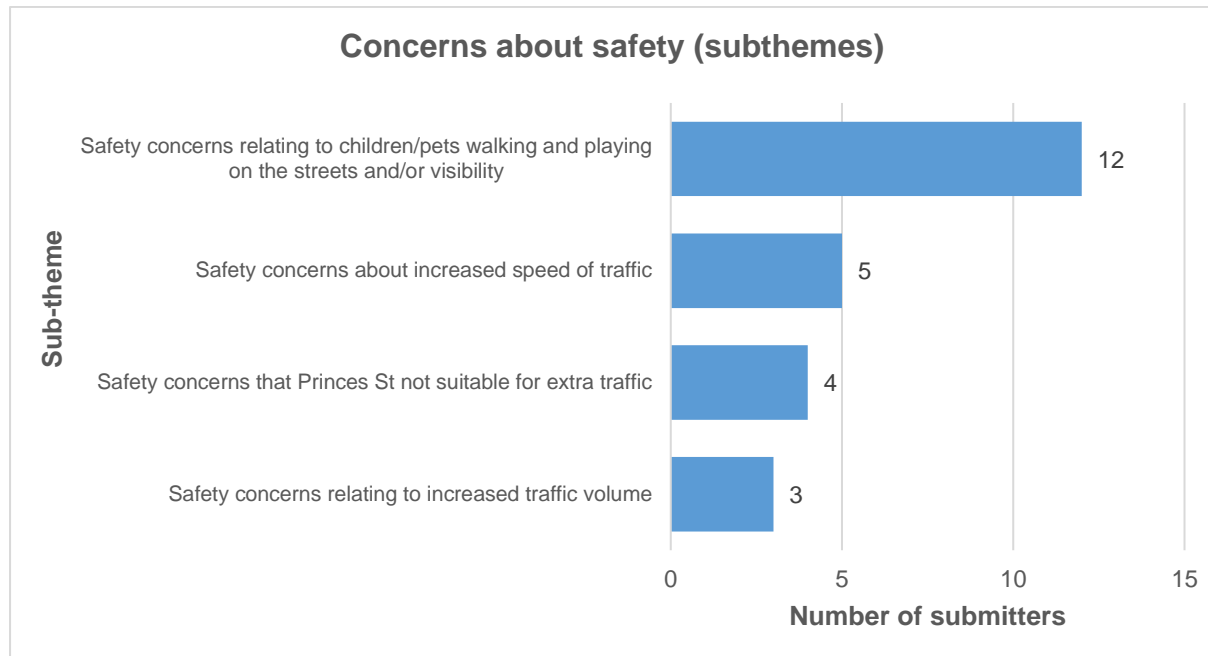
“Better roads and connections to other roads is a great idea.”

“Connection has been needed for over 20 years. People trying to arrive at the lower end of Princes Street regularly are unable to find their destination. This includes cars, trucks and emergency vehicles.”

“It would allow easier access around Riverhead.”

Concerns about safety (subthemes)

14 submitters made comments relating to concerns about safety if the proposed changes go ahead.



Based on 14 submissions. Submissions may be counted in more than one sub-theme.

The biggest safety concern mentioned by residents is for young children who are used to playing on the street in the existing cul-de-sac, mentioned by 12 submitters.

“We like the fact that it is not a through road - it is much safer for our kids and pets and limits the traffic going down the road.”

“Young kids feel safe to walk out of their house and not have to worry about dangerous traffic.”

5 submitters mentioned concerns that the proposed connection will encourage traffic to speed.

“If the street is opened traffic will race up Princes Street to locate the Riverhead Tavern”

“This proposal would turn these roads (Princes St east, Kent St, and Kaipara Portage Rd, into a race circuit for some idiots that drive these roads at night already.”

Some submitters mentioned they don't think Princes St is suitable for extra traffic due to poor visibility and the narrow width of the road (4 submitters).

“Princes St is not suitable for extra traffic, the crossroads at Princes St/Gt North road has poor visibility and the old (western end) of Princes St is narrow with lots of cars parked on the street.”

A few submitters mentioned they oppose the connection as it will cause increased volume of traffic in the area (3 submitters), and one submitter mentioned the light traffic volume was one of the reasons they bought a property in the street.

“This will make that road very busy and increase the traffic load. We bought a section on this road particularly because of the light traffic running across the front of our house.”

Concerns about footpaths

3 of the 7 submitters who commented on footpaths mentioned they would prefer other footpaths in Riverhead to be prioritised for completion before this connection goes ahead. A couple of submitters mentioned specifically the planned footpaths on Arthur Street.

“Prioritise finishing the footpaths in Riverhead before starting new work.”

“A footpath was planned for the new road on Arthur St/Sussex Tce... the new road just installed will be left unfinished on one side for "a few years"... why are you starting and proposing new projects when this one is left in such a poor unfinished state?”

“We would like to see the new section of footpath on the northern side of the new part of Princes St extended down the existing part of Princes Street in order to service more residences.”

3 submitters mentioned they would prefer the road to be kept pedestrian only.

“Keep it as pedestrian only but with a footpath linking Princes and George Streets.”

“Remove the trees, clear the site, and perhaps build a footpath but not a connecting road.”

Would like funds used for alternative works

7 submitters mentioned they would like to see the funds for this project spent elsewhere in Riverhead, examples included:

“Please use the money for this project to create a safe intersection at the corner of Riverhead Rd and SH16.”

“Better off putting in roundabouts and traffic lights for better flow in places such as in front of the Kumeu River Winery or in front of Boric Food Market.”

“Funds are better directed to higher priority areas with risk to life.”

Feedback about plants and trees

7 submitters made comments about the plants and trees, examples included:

“Help us to establish a community garden on the Princes and George street sections of unformed road.”

“More effort should be made to preserve the greenery and trees given the growth in construction.”

Concerns about impact on aesthetics and ambience of the area

4 submitters gave feedback about the proposed changes impacting on the look and feel of the area.

“The proposed works would unnecessarily change the character of the area, Riverhead’s rural feel needs to be preserved.”

“The cul-de-sac gives the street a great aesthetic look and privacy to add value to all our homes, I strongly oppose (proposed changes).”

Concerns about drainage

4 submitters commented on drainage issues needing to be addressed.

“The drainage is not resolved. It has been noted by many residents that when George (from Kaipara Portage) and the Princes St extension were developed that the stormwater down the east end of Princes Street got a lot worse and now overflows onto land. It needs to go under the road and down the steep part of George to the stream through the approved culvert.”

Concerns about speed humps

4 submitters commented on speed humps. 3 submitters suggested speed humps would need to be installed to slow traffic, and 1 submitter commented that they do not want speed humps installed as it would create noise as cars slow and accelerate over the speed hump.

“If the dual lane proposal goes ahead, we would like to see a safety rise to stop speeding traffic as there are a few children in this area.”

“Our preference is that speed humps are not considered... on a road of this gradient can contribute significantly to an increase in noise as vehicles slow and accelerate over the humps.”

Concerns about street lighting

4 submitters made comments relating to street lighting. 2 submitters mentioned they would like more street lighting and 2 submitters mentioned they do not want street lighting installed as it's not in keeping with the rural feel of the area and/or loss of privacy.

"More street lighting would be great as neighbours have already had vehicles broken into at night."

"Street light is not in keeping with a rural area."

"We would prefer not to see the installation of a street light.... as would expect such a fixture to cast light beyond the road and into the bedrooms of our property."

Don't think the proposed connection is needed

4 submitters commented that they don't think the connection is needed.

"It is safer to keep using Kaipara Portage to get to/from the eastern end of Princes St. There is no need to open it up for pedestrians as we already use this route."

"The paper road at the other end of Princes St, only services a smaller number of the community, the reasons for this change appear to be mainly aesthetically based."

Communicate with residents about the plans

3 submitters mentioned they would like more communication about the plans.

"Improve communications."

"Please take our feedback into consideration."

"It does not state what you are connecting Princes St to, is it Kent Terrace?"

Other feedback and suggestions

Other feedback was given by 7 submitters, however each comment or suggestion was mentioned by one submitter only. All suggestions have been summarised in the Design Suggestions section.

Design suggestions in feedback and AT responses

Submitters suggested a wide range of changes to the proposal. We haven't responded to each of the questions or points raised given the proposal won't proceed.

| Design suggestion in feedback | |
|---|--|
| Concerns about safety | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider safety risks caused by the new connection road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would increase volume of traffic - Would encourage cars to speed on Princes St, e.g. cars will speed up Princes St to the Riverhead Tavern - There is poor visibility at the crossroads at Princes St and Great North Roads and the old (western end) of Princes St is narrow with parked cars - Risk due to cars speeding and children playing in the cul-de-sac - It's safer as it is for children and pets as limited traffic uses the road | |
| Impact on aesthetics and ambience of the area | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the impact of the connection road on aesthetics and ambience of the area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would change the rural character of the area - Will reduce the ambience of the area - Will detract from the aesthetic look of the current cul-de-sac - Will reduce privacy of the homes - Will increase noise in the area (increased traffic) - Could possibly reduce value of homes in the area | |
| Footpaths | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the need for more footpaths in the area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are many children living on the Kent Terrace, Kent St and Princes St east and they have to walk on the roads to get anywhere as there are no footpaths at all | |

| Design suggestion in feedback | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the proposed new section of footpath on the northern side of the new part of Princes St down the existing part of Princes St <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To service more residents in the area • Improve footpath on the new part of Princes St (between Great North Rd and George St) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently ineffective as difficult to access due to the wide, open drain that separates it from the road • Include in the proposal a pedestrian crossing at the western end of the new section of Princes St (between Great North Rd and George St) from road to footpath <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to current proposal the western end would remain inaccessible as it terminates on the berm without connection to any other feature of the road • Retain as pedestrian only but with a footpath linking Princes and George Streets • Prioritise completing the footpaths in Riverhead first <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The planned footpaths on Arthur St/Sussex St has been pushed by several years after the job had been half completed - resurfaced but with deep, open drains leaving the roads in an unsafe, dangerous and aesthetically unpleasing state - The ditches are now dangerously deep where the road has been raised • Improve the pedestrian access that is already available from the eastern to central Princes St with a formed path • Review the width of the footpaths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The footpaths are too wide causing traffic problems when cars park on the side of the road, and only one car can pass while an oncoming car must give way - Footpaths are so wide it's having a negative impact on the width of the road. • Ensure the footpath design around Riverhead doesn't create the 'new' roads to be smaller in width, than the original roading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Causes traffic problems | |
| Drainage improvements | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address drainage and stormwater flooding issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is currently storm water flooding from side streets (George St and Kaipara Street) onto lower Princes Street - A footpath running down Princes St would divert more water onto properties | |

| <p style="text-align: center;">Design suggestion in feedback</p> | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the stormwater drainage under the road and down the steep part of George St to the stream through the approved culvert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When George (from Kaipara Portage) and the Princes St extension were developed the stormwater down the east end of Princes Street deteriorated and now overflows onto properties • Review the proposed new drainage channels on both sides of the new road surface to ensure they are adequate to evacuate the stormwater run-off that affects this part of Princes St <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The water runoff from the existing uncovered drainage channels on Kaipara Rd across the top of George St, George St itself, and the part of Princes St to be resurfaced is currently channelled into the existing open drain flanking Princes St, and the current volume of runoff is greater than the existing stormwater is designed to cope with - Currently the runoff runs: across the top of the new part of Princes St; over the top of the old part of Princes St and neighbouring properties on the northern side of the road; across Kent Terrace and into neighbouring properties on the eastern side of the road • Introduce covered drains at the end and along the side of George St, flowing into a covered manhole on the corner of George and Princes Streets • Introduce a covered drain on the southern side of the proposed new road rather than open channels | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Would prefer the funds used for alternative works</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the money to be spent on the safety, health and wellbeing of the community • Use the funds for higher priority areas with risk to life • Use the funds instead to improve safety at the opposite end of Princes St <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's a busy and dangerous T-junction next to the Riverhead War Memorial Park and the Rugby club, which is used by the wider community - The paper road at the end of Princes St where this work is proposed services a smaller number of the community - The reasons for these proposed changes appear to be mainly aesthetically based - Emergency services are able to access the dwellings already via Kaipara Portage Rd/Kent St • Use the funds instead to create a safe intersection at the corner of Riverhead Rd and SH16 • Use the funds to be spent on building a connecting road instead to install street lights along Princes street especially at the cul-de-sac end of the road | |

| Design suggestion in feedback | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead put in roundabouts and traffic lights for better flow in places such as in front of the Kumeu River Winery or in front of Borics | |
| Speed humps | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install speed bumps, safety rise or planting on Princes St <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To slow traffic down - Risk of pets and children being injured by speeding vehicles • Don't install speed humps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would increase noise as cars slow down and accelerate over the humps | |
| Street lights | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install more street lighting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To prevent risk of vehicles being broken into at night • Install street lights along Princes street especially at the cul-de-sac end of the road • Don't install a street light <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would cast light into bedrooms of properties - is not in keeping with a rural area | |
| Plants and trees | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the weeds/weed trees in the Princes St/George St green areas and replace with formed pedestrian paths and landscaping or community garden • Preserve the greenery and trees • Plant new trees after the work is complete • Retain timber from any tree removal and stack on undeveloped part of George St | |
| Other suggestions | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider forming the short extension of Sussex Terrace to George Street • Consider further upgrades to Sussex Terrace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install one or two vehicle crossings | |

| Design suggestion in feedback | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extend the replaced stormwater pipes from asphalt edge, under the berm and through property before the existing chasm is possibly back-filled • Tar seal the remainder of Princes Street towards Kent Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In some parts it is barely two lanes • Include road marking at the Princes St/Kent Terrace intersection • Use Kaipara Portage Road for vehicles to get to/from the eastern end of Princes Street instead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would be safer • Consider offering grants/funding to residents to employ contractors to maintain the paper roads for the large works • Include a connection to George St creating a full intersection • Erect a sign at the Kaipara Portage roundabout with directions to the Riverhead Tavern | |

Attachment 1: Feedback form

Feedback form Princes Street Connection



Please complete this freepost form and return it to us by **Sunday 24 June 2018**.

Alternatively, you can provide feedback online at AT.govt.nz/haveyoursay

If you have difficulty completing the form, you can call us on **(09) 355 3553** and our contact centre staff will fill in the feedback form with you over the phone.

If your comment relates to a specific location, please be sure to state where. You are welcome to attach additional pages (or feedback online) if you need more space to provide feedback.

• **What do you think about the proposal?** *(please select one)*

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

• **Please give a reason for your answer:**

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name

Business/Organisation

Street address

Suburb

City/Town Post code

Email address Phone number

Providing personal details is optional. Providing your postal or email address ensures that we can contact you with updates to the project. The following information is for statistics purposes only, and does not affect your feedback.

PRIVACY: AT is committed to protecting our customers' personal information.

What best describes your interest in this proposal?

(please tick all that apply)

- I live or own property near Princes Street
- I work near Princes Street
- I walk or cycle through Princes Street
- Other *(please specify)*

How did you first hear about this project?

(please tick all that apply)

- Information posted/emailed to me
- Auckland Transport website
- Word of mouth
- Other *(please state)*

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