

# EASTERN BUSWAY

PROJECT NEWS AND  
INFORMATION FROM  
PAKURANGA TO BOTANY



JUNE 2022

**Kia ora and welcome to the June 2022 update on the Eastern Busway, a significant project that is about more than just better transport. It will enable East Auckland to continue to develop and grow through investment, creation of jobs and greater social mobility. Its efficient services will give nearby communities a compelling reason to leave the car at home, and it will be a vital part of Tāmaki Makaurau’s public transport network for decades to come.**

The Panmure to Pakuranga section of the Eastern Busway opened last year. The next stage from Pakuranga to Botany will complete a 7km busway with separate walking and cycling facilities. The busway services will be able to carry more than 30,000 passengers every day and give 24,000 people access to a bus station within 1km of home.

During the last six months property owners, stakeholders and the community have given feedback on the proposed busway design between Pakuranga and Botany, which has been carefully considered by Auckland Transport (AT).

In February 2022 AT approved the design for the busway section between Pakuranga and Ti Rakau Drive Bridge.

In May 2022 AT considered the feedback and route options between Ti Rakau Drive Bridge and Botany Town Centre, and would like further time to engage with the community before deciding the route. AT’s decision on this section of the alignment will be known at the beginning of July.

**Further information is available in the Design Options brochure on [easternbusway.nz](http://easternbusway.nz)**



Eastern Busway

# Building the busway from Pakuranga to Ti Rakau Drive Bridge, and the Reeves Road Flyover

The project team is planning to build the project safely in stages, as quickly as possible and in a way that minimises disruption.

From late August this year you can expect to see preparation work in and around the Pakuranga Town Centre and along Ti Rakau Drive to Ti Rakau Drive Bridge. The team will start to prepare vacated properties to be deconstructed and begin clearing sites.

As with the construction, clearance work will take place in stages and there will be several steps involved to ensure it is done safely and efficiently. The alliance is working with suppliers and organisations to relocate buildings and reuse as much material from them as possible. All properties will be tested for asbestos before any work starts.

Our priority during this stage will be coordinating with neighbours to ensure the appropriate installation of safety fences and security measures, and that disruption is minimised. Pre-condition surveys for neighbouring properties will also be completed.

We will be hosting some pop-in information sessions in July so people can find out more and ask any questions of the team. The sessions will be widely advertised.

Information required for construction consents will also be available. It includes measures to ensure careful management of construction noise and vibration, traffic, dust generation and other construction effects.

## Safety First

Safety is our first priority, a key part of developing the project design and it aligns with the Ministry of Transport's Road to Zero programme. A Safe System Assessment or SSA gives each section of road a score based on; the volume of traffic, the chance of a particular crash type happening, and seriousness of injury. In SSA terms that's exposure, likelihood and severity.

The project team carried out a SSA on the short-listed route design options, which helped to determine the preferred designs. Next, one preferred option became the proposed design. When the proposed design was developed in more detail, another SSA was carried out. It compared the proposed design with the current layout of each intersection on Ti Rakau Drive and the sections of road in between them. Areas with an above-average crash risk were identified early so that refinements could be made in the detailed design stage.



# WHY HIGHER DENSITY IS KEY TO AUCKLAND'S GROWTH

**Auckland is a fantastic city and growing fast. During the next 30 years our population is expected to increase by another one million people. As our city grows, so does our need to have new homes and more housing options in places where we want to live, closer to the everyday things we like.**

Like all rapidly expanding cities we have some growing pains and the thought of Auckland accommodating another million residents may feel daunting. However, when the process to achieve growth is well managed, the benefits of living in a growing city outweigh the downside. Auckland Council will be working with communities to manage these changes effectively and ensure that Auckland continues to be a great place to live, work and play.

## Planning for Auckland to grow

Our city's planning rule book is the Auckland Unitary Plan. It allows for higher density development and living, a greater variety of housing styles and locations, and many more homes to be built close to public transport and urban centres.

Since 2020 central government has played a stronger role in planning how New Zealand's largest cities can grow to allow for more housing, particularly freeing up height and density controls. The National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD), requires large and growing cities like Auckland to enable buildings of six storeys or more within walking distance of our city centre, 10 metropolitan centres, and Auckland's train and busway stations (rapid transit stops).

The government's new Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021 requires the council to enable more medium density housing of up to three storeys across almost all Auckland suburbs, without needing a resource consent. Auckland Council's General Manager of Plans and Places John Duguid acknowledges that the government directive, and its implications, will mean major changes across the city in the years ahead. "The government requires more height and density from us, which is a big change not a little tweaking," he says. "But growth is our reality, and the government holds a strong view on how it wants Auckland to grow. We will work with it, continuing the progress begun through the Auckland Unitary Plan in 2016."

## Our neighbourhoods

Aucklanders aspire to have safe and secure homes, which are affordable, with easy commutes and have access to public transport and amenities such as parks, schools, and shops. Many people like to live in a vibrant area and feel connected to their communities. To give everyone this opportunity, there will need to be changes to the look and feel of our residential areas.

Higher density residential developments such as apartments, townhouses, and terrace housing, is the smartest solution to providing that opportunity and meeting today's housing demands as well as those of future generations.

## Sustainable development

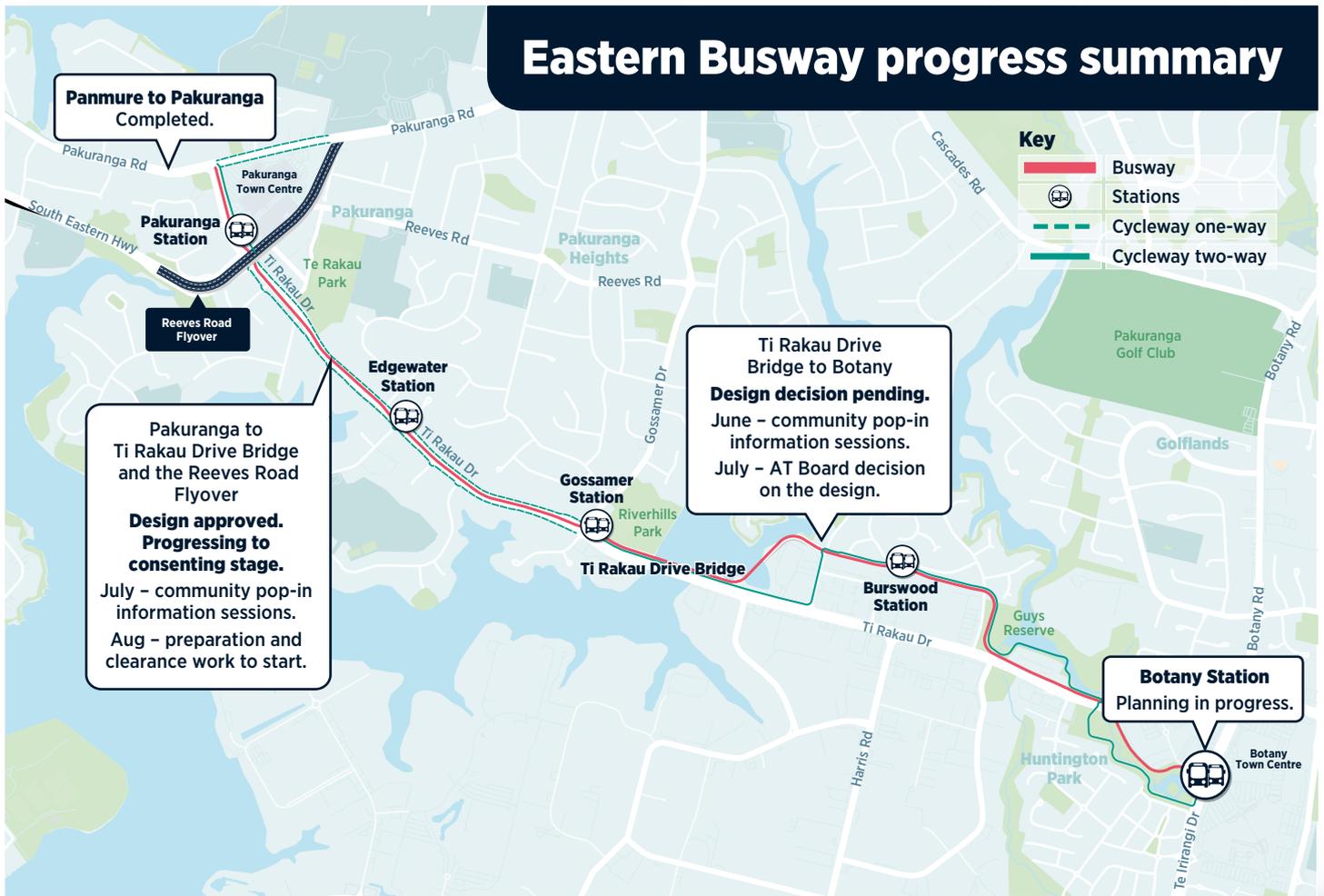
Increasing housing choice and density along rapid transit links like the Eastern Busway is one way we can attempt to slow or reduce urban sprawl and the harmful transport emissions produced by long commutes. Many Aucklanders have no alternative to drive private vehicles each day. Intensification could change that. By building more homes in areas along rapid transit links, we can increase the percentage of trips where local residents are able to choose to walk, cycle, or take public transport.

## Next Steps

To accommodate the central government's new rules, changes must be made to the Auckland Unitary Plan. The changes will impact how people can choose to develop their property. While most of the government's changes are mandatory, the council has scope to make a few decisions for our growing city.

In April 2022 Auckland Council asked for feedback on some proposed approaches for responding to the NPS-UD. The feedback would inform the proposed plan change that must be publicly notified by the end of August 2022. There will be another opportunity to have your say on changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan by making a submission to be considered during the decision-making process.

# Eastern Busway progress summary



## Community engagement

There will be opportunities to have your say on aspects of the project during 2022 as the design and consenting stages are progressed.

### June 2022

Community engagement on the proposed design from Ti Rakau Drive Bridge to Botany Town Centre.  
 Wednesday 15 June, 3pm - 6pm  
 Saturday 18 June, 10am - 1pm  
 East City Wesleyan Church  
 219 Burswood Drive, Botany

### July 2022

Community pop-in sessions on the Pakuranga to Ti Rakau Drive Bridge stretch.  
 These sessions will be widely advertised when the dates, times and venues are confirmed.

## Contact us

To find out more about the Eastern Busway, receive regular project updates or provide feedback, you can contact the project team on:

- [easternbusway.nz](http://easternbusway.nz)
- [info@easternbusway.nz](mailto:info@easternbusway.nz)
- 0800 BUSWAY (0800 287 929)

Ngā mihi nui and best wishes  
 The Eastern Busway Alliance

