



Māngere West Cycling Improvements

Collaboration Forum - Session 1

Summary

Auckland Transport

Date & time	24 February 2022, 6.00 - 8:00 pm
Venue	Online via Zoom
Attendees	23 participants + project team (consultants and AT staff)
Distribution	All attendees

About the Māngere West Cycling Improvements project

The Māngere West Cycling Improvements project is part of Auckland Transport (AT)'s Short-Term Auckland Airport Improvements (STAAI) programme, which incorporates the early construction of a Bus/Rail Interchange at Puhinui, revised bus services, local bus priority measures and a set of walking and cycling measures for travelling around Māngere and Māngere Bridge to the Airport.

STAAI is, in turn, a programme under the umbrella Southwest Gateway programme that will create a well-connected, efficient transport system to provide travel choice and reliability for how people and freight travel around southwest and southeast Auckland, including to and from the airport.

Many people travel from Māngere West and Māngere East to work in the neighbouring employment areas of Airport Oaks and Auckland Airport. The cycling improvements proposed by AT in 2020 (ref. links numbered 1-5 in the map on the following page) sought to provide improved and continuous cycling connections between these areas by filling in key gaps in the existing cycle network (existing network shown in green in the map below). Providing these improvements sought to make cycling a more attractive and viable choice for those that wished to travel by bike.



Map of the project area. The links numbered 1-5 are those proposed during the 2020 consultation. The Collaboration Forum process may result in changes to these.

In 2020, AT consulted communities in Māngere West on the proposed cycling improvements. During this consultation, some groups within the community indicated they wanted more involvement in developing proposed cycling improvements. In response, AT restarted the project in 2021 to work more closely with communities in Māngere and Māngere Bridge to develop options for cycling connections, so trips to work, schools and town centres are easier and safer by bike.

About the Collaboration Forum

The Collaboration Forum - which consists of four sessions - is a response to the community feedback received in 2020. It brings together a diverse group of participants from the community to develop proposed cycling options.

Between each of the four Collaboration Forum sessions (ref. schedule graphic on the following page), proposed options will be reviewed for feasibility by the project team and AT - with feedback taken to the next session. The goal over the four sessions is to develop a concept for proposed cycling improvements that reflects the needs and wants of the community, while meeting the requirements of AT.



Collaboration Forum Session 1 goals

The session held on Thursday, February 24 was the first of four sessions of the Collaboration Forum for the Māngere West Cycle Improvements project. This first session aimed to:

1. Build relationships.
2. Allow participants to share previous experiences engaging with Auckland Transport (AT) and the wider Council family.
3. Understand long-term aspirations, concerns and opportunities related to cycling/active modes.
4. Formalise the Terms of Reference.

Presentation

The session kicked off with a brief presentation that included the following:

- **Housekeeping.** The session's emcee, Ioane Afoa (AT Head of Community Engagement), introduced the project. Matt Fordham (consultant Project Manager) explained why the forum had shifted to an online format, how people's information would be used by the project team, and some Zoom basics.
- **Project context.** Renata Smit (AT Programme Manager) provided a brief overview of the Māngere West Cycling Improvements project and how it fits into the umbrella Southwest Gateway Programme.
- **Activation events.** After the project was restarted in 2021, the project team organised a series of events to meet with community members to understand where they currently travelled around Māngere West, the places they would cycle if it were safe, and the barriers to cycling. Matt Fordham (consultant Project Manager) summarised these events and the data collected from conversations with community members.
- **Whakawhanaunga.** Participants and project team members were invited to introduce themselves and talk about their relationship with Māngere West. Due to time constraints, this activity continued after participants were divided into groups.

Activities

Participants were assigned to four breakout rooms to go through three planned activities in small groups:

1. Feedback on previous engagement with AT and the wider Council family.
2. Aspirations & concerns.
3. Terms of reference.

Each breakout room had one or two facilitators that guided the kōrero and took notes of what was discussed.

Activity 1 & 2 - Feedback on previous engagement, concerns & aspirations

At the start of the first activity, we asked participants where on a 'spectrum of cycling' they found themselves. The results from this activity are shown in the graphic below:



The remainder of Activity 1 involved hearing about participants' past experiences in the area with Auckland Transport and the wider Auckland Council family. Activity 2 explored the wants, needs, aspirations and concerns related to active modes and cycling in the local area.

While these activities were planned as separate exercises, in most groups, the conversation moved fluidly between the prompt questions for each activity. To reflect this, we reviewed the themes that came out during the kōrero and summarised them together. The themes raised across both activities were:

- **There is a need for community-led encouragement of uptake of cycling.** Increasing the number of people cycling in Māngere West requires working with local community groups and connectors to promote, teach and encourage cycling. This includes teaching people to look after their bikes, supporting local initiatives like the Triple Teez workshop, and finding role models to make cycling popular.
- **Cycling needs to be promoted in schools.** Educating and empowering school children is key to increasing the number of people who cycle in Māngere West. Education will improve safety and confidence in cycling.
- **Bike affordability needs to be addressed.** Access to bikes is seen as a barrier for families and investing in new bikes is not a priority for many.
- **Meaningful community engagement is key.** It is important to engage with communities in a meaningful and clear way that includes a diverse spectrum of voices and perspectives.
- **AT needs to communicate effectively with the community.** Making sure people are and feel heard is imperative if AT is to meet the needs and aspirations of the community.
- **There is a diversity of views regarding the need for cycling improvements.** There's a spectrum of views around the need for cycling in the area. Some participants think new and safe cycleways would be a great addition to the neighbourhood, while others don't think it should be a priority.
- **It is important to consider the interaction between different road users.** There needs to be clarity on how different transport modes come together. There is potential for conflict between the needs of different road users that affect the experience of driving and cycling in the area.
- **The impact of reallocating parking for cycle lanes needs to be considered.** There are concerns about the impact of reallocating parking spaces in some areas to make way for cycle lanes.
- **There are concerns around the safety of existing infrastructure and road user behaviour.** Safety concerns were shared about several issues, including poor lighting in public spaces and the presence of dirt bikes doing dangerous stunts.
- **Public spaces require maintenance work.** There are garden berms, corners and intersections in the area that are not well-maintained, impacting people's perception of Māngere West.
- **Any construction works need to be considerate.** In planning any construction activity to change roads, it's important to consider the multilingual nature of Māngere West and provide safe and accessible alternatives for commuters.

- **There is a diversity of views regarding what safe and connected cycleways should look like:**
 - Some participants think dedicated cycleways are essential, especially when continuous, well-lit and with good visibility.
 - Some participants suggested cycleways could be closer to nature and away from main roads.
 - Some participants like the idea of concrete separators for cycleways; others prefer paint or no separation at all.
 - Some participants suggested the need to consider shared walking/cycling paths.
 - Some participants suggested addressing the meeting point of cycle lanes and driveways is important for future designs.

Activity 3 - Terms of reference

For the last activity of the evening, facilitators brought up on the screen the draft Terms of Reference for the Collaboration Forum and discussed key points with their group. Some groups ran out of time to do this activity, so it was agreed to send the draft document to all participants for feedback. An email with the draft Terms of Reference was sent by Nabiha Haque on March 2nd, with the opportunity to provide feedback before Tuesday, March 8th.

The Terms of Reference aims to ensure:

- The community Collaboration Forum is a safe place for people and representatives of different groups and organisations to share their views and perspectives.
- The process is transparent.
- There is accountability to the process and to the decisions made through the forum.

It is important everyone reads the Terms of Reference before Session 2 as it sets out how we will work together during the Collaboration Forum. By continuing to participate in the Collaboration Forum, participants agree to these Terms of Reference. Throughout the process, the terms can be referred to if participants feel the Collaboration Forum sessions are not progressing according to what was agreed.

Closing

Participants joined the main Zoom room for a brief checkout and a reminder to join the upcoming session on March 10, 2022.

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If you have any questions or comments for the Project Team in the meantime, please get in touch via email at: mangerewestcyclingimprovements@at.govt.nz

Thank you.