

April 2014

Dominion Road Upgrade



Feedback sought on designs for Dominion Road Upgrade

Auckland Transport (AT) is planning a major upgrade of Dominion Road, for which detailed designs are being shared with the public at two open days this month.

Public feedback on aspects of the plan will be used to fine-tune the design before construction starts in spring this year.

The feedback period is now open until 30 April 2014 and feedback can be made online or by filling in AT's freepost feedback form at the open day. Alternatively, phone us on 355-3553 to request a form to be posted out to you.

The project is designed to bring many improvements, particularly in regards to pedestrian and cycle safety and public transport reliability, to those living, working and travelling along or near this busy arterial route.

The upgrade will increase the route's capacity to deal with an expected 67 per cent growth in bus travellers by 2021.

Bus lanes will be connected and new lanes created south of Mt Albert Road to provide continuous peak hour bus lanes from State Highway 20 to View Road.

The three village centres of Eden Valley, Balmoral and Mt Roskill will be upgraded with new trees, lighting, art work and street furniture, and pedestrian safety improvements.

Footpaths will be improved along the entire length of Dominion Road and new safer cycle routes created through quieter streets to the east and west of Dominion Road.

The upgrade - from Horopito Street in the north to State Highway 20 in the south - is designed to enhance the existing qualities that make the road one of Auckland's most iconic.

For more information and updates on the Dominion Road Upgrade, visit www.at.govt.nz/dominion

**OPEN
DAYS**

Come along to one of our open days to find out more about the Dominion Road Upgrade and give your feedback on our detailed designs.

When: Thursday 10 April, 3.30pm - 7pm

Where: Auckland Deaf Society Clubrooms
164 Balmoral Road, Mt Eden

Saturday 12 April, 10am - 1pm

Dominion Road Primary School Hall
Quest Terrace, Mt Roskill

Dominion Road - a snapshot

Dominion Road is one of Auckland's longest roads, spanning 4.5km through the middle of the isthmus. It is a key route that is vital to Auckland's public transport network.

Dominion Road is also one of the few transport corridors in the city where there are more bus passengers than drivers in peak hours. It carries about 1.8 million bus passengers a year, three per cent of the entire region's public transport trips.

On any given day, some 25,000 vehicles go through the road, with up to 1500 people travelling into the city in 50 buses during the morning peak hours of 7am and 9am.

The road is also home to three village centres, four signalised pedestrian crossings, 50 side roads and hundreds of driveways - making a major upgrade a huge undertaking.

However, the completed upgrade will result in a much improved Dominion Road for everyone living, working and travelling on it.



Continuous peak time bus lanes and new bus stop locations

Due to huge cost factors, mostly related to relocating utility services and altering or demolishing a number of heritage buildings, widening the road along the entire Dominion Road corridor to cater for cars, buses and cyclists was ruled out.

However, the project will introduce continuous bus lanes that will be operational during peak travel times (northbound 7am-9am and southbound 4pm-6pm).

This will help to make bus services more reliable and reduce travel times for passengers.

Cars will be able to park in the bus lanes outside peak times.

The upgrade will see bus stops located at 400m intervals, which means pedestrians are within four minutes walk of a bus stop once on Dominion Road. The exact location of each bus stop is still to be confirmed and AT welcomes your feedback on bus stop locations during this detailed design phase of the project.

There will also be improved bus facilities, such as shelters, bench seats and real time passenger information signs, provided along the route.



An artist's impression of the upgraded Mt Roskill Village Centre

Upgrade to rejuvenate village centres

The three village centres along Dominion Road will be upgraded to make them more attractive, easier to use and safer for pedestrians.

We recognise that each of the village centres at Eden Valley, Balmoral and Mt Roskill have its own distinctive character that people appreciate and identify with. That's why we have sought extensive input from local iwi, the Albert-Eden and Puketapapa local boards, community and business groups and renowned architects and urban planners to come up with the best possible designs for each village centre.

The design has some elements consistent across the three centres but also emphasises the unique character of each village through the use of individual colours, patterns and plant species.

Being neighbourhood and community focal points with a range of shopping, business and public facilities, the new-look village centres will have a stronger emphasis on pedestrians.

Upgrades will include new footpaths, attractive landscaping, new seating and bike stands, improved lighting, planted rain gardens to reduce surface flooding and remove pollutants, additional stormwater bores to reduce run-off and pedestrian-priority crossings and raised median to improve road safety.

All new plantings will be native species. Throughout the village centres, new trees will be planted along the footpath, at the corner of side streets and within the central median of the road. Nikau and pohutukawa will be common to all three village centres, but each centre will also have "signature" trees.

Examples of the types of native tree species, street furniture and paving designs we propose to use will be shown at the open days for you to view and comment on.

They will also feature online, alongside other detailed design information, at www.at.govt.nz/dominion.



An artist's impression of the upgraded Eden Valley Village Centre

Safer cycle routes coming soon!

Implementation of specially-marked cycle routes on quieter streets running parallel to Dominion Road is expected to start in May and take about six months to complete.

The cycle routes are designed to make cycling an attractive, easier and safer transport and recreation option for the local community and will provide good connections to schools and parks.

The new routes will traverse about 12 kilometres on roads and through parks, passing by or near 16 local schools attended by 12,000 pupils.

The majority of cycle routes will be on-road, sharing with vehicles, but in some locations the footpath will be widened to create a shared path for cyclists and pedestrians.

The cycle routes will improve safety for cyclists by:

- Implementing new traffic-calming measures to slow vehicle speeds
- Providing consistent destination signage and clear road markings
- Removing pinch points by widening footpaths to create shared paths
- Installing two new signalised crossings on Balmoral Road and two on Mt Albert Road

A map of the parallel cycle routes is available online at www.at.govt.nz/dominion and can also be viewed in detail at the open days.



Parking changes for Dominion Road and side streets

The project's main aims are to provide improved bus transport infrastructure and an improved pedestrian environment, with a particular focus on footpath widening and streetscape works within the village centres.

This means that there will be changes to the current on-street parking and loading areas along Dominion Road and some of the adjacent side streets.

The approximate number of parking spaces currently available within the three village centres are:

- Eden Valley - 600
- Balmoral - 450
- Mt Roskill - 500

A parking demand survey looking at the peak occupancy of these spaces was undertaken in November 2013 and showed low to medium occupancy in village centres. It also identified a demand for longer time periods in the restricted parking areas within the villages.

While the upgrade will result in the permanent removal of some on-street parking along Dominion Road and side streets, parking analysis indicates there will still be ample parking available.

The Dominion Road Upgrade will result in the following key parking changes:

- No parking on Dominion Road during peak bus operating hours (7am - 9am northbound and 4pm - 6pm southbound)

- The permanent removal of some parking spaces from Dominion Road (through the village centres) after the continuous bus lanes are created (due to the creation of additional bus stops and requirements to have a certain length of yellow 'no parking' lines on each side of a bus stop)
- The permanent removal of some parking spaces from side streets as a result of intersection realignments, streetscape improvements and the construction of new rain gardens for stormwater treatment

This largely affects existing parking on Bellwood Avenue, Burnley Terrace (south side), King Edward Street (south side), Grange Road (north side), Rocklands Avenue (south side), Halston Road (north side), Tennyson Avenue (south side), Queens Avenue (north side), Carmen Avenue (north side) and Jasper Avenue (south side)

- There will also be changes to some 'loading zone' spaces, including the relocation of those on side streets to Dominion Road to make them more accessible for business deliveries.

AT welcomes your feedback on these parking proposals.



Keeping you informed

AT is committed to keeping the community informed about the Dominion Road Upgrade and we'll continue communicating with you in a variety of ways throughout the life of the project.

If you would like to receive regular email updates on project progress and upcoming works during construction, please subscribe online at www.at.govt.nz. Your details will only be kept for the purposes of communicating with you about the Dominion Road Upgrade.