

Beach Road Walking and Cycling Improvements

June 2014



Looking east from the Beach Road/Mahuhu Crescent intersection

Cycle path works begin in July

In July, Auckland Transport will start implementing a flagship cycling project that will form an important link in Auckland's first urban cycleway.

The Beach Road Walking and Cycling Improvements Project will provide a two-way cycle path along Beach Road and Mahuhu Crescent.

When constructed, the 1.5km cycleway will connect with the Grafton Gully and north-western cycleway to the south, and cycle routes on Tamaki Drive, Quay Street and Westhaven promenade to the east and north. Together they will form a continuous, safe and convenient route for cyclists to access the city centre.

The first stage of work will take place on Beach Road between Churchill Street and Mahuhu Crescent, and along Mahuhu Crescent and Tapora Street to Quay Street.

It is expected to be completed in September 2014 and will tie in with the completion of the Grafton Gully Cycleway, currently under construction.

Prior to work commencing, AT's contractor, Downer NZ, will be in touch with residents and businesses along the route to inform them of any likely disruptions during construction. Downer will be working hard to keep any disruptions to a minimum.

The second stage of work involves a streetscape upgrade of the footpaths on the northern side of Beach Road between Mahuhu Crescent and Britomart Place. Auckland Council will shortly be consulting the public on aspects of the proposed streetscape design. The streetscape work is expected to start in January 2015.

The full project is expected to be completed in April 2015.

For more information and updates, visit AT's project webpage at www.AT.govt.nz/beachroad or phone AT's call centre on (09) 355 3553.

Auckland Transport
An Auckland Council Organisation

Project overview

Beach Road is a busy arterial route in central Auckland which forms part of the Auckland Cycle Network. This project seeks to significantly improve cycling facilities along Beach Road by providing a two-way dedicated cycleway, which is physically separated from traffic.

Currently there are no dedicated cycling facilities along Beach Road. Providing a two-way, three-metre-wide cycleway will improve the safety of the route for cyclists and will encourage more people to cycle to the city.

The project includes:

- A dedicated two-way cycle path along Beach Road between Churchill Street and Britomart Place

- A dedicated two-way cycle path from Beach Road to Quay Street (along Mahuhu Crescent and Taporā Street)
- A one-way cycle lane between Te Taou Crescent and The Strand (on the opposite side of Beach Road to the two-way cycle path)
- Improvements to existing footpaths along the route

Project benefits:

- A flagship cycleway that sets the standard for Auckland's cycling initiatives
- Promotes cycling as a safe means of transport
- Important connection between existing and proposed cycleways
- Encourages sustainable and healthier transport choices



Looking west from the Beach Road/Te Taou Crescent intersection

Community feedback used to fine-tune design

Thank you to those people who provided feedback on the Beach Road Walking and Cycling Improvements project during the September to October 2013 consultation period.

Your feedback was helpful in informing the final design and, as a result, a number of changes were made to the original plans.

Eighty-seven per cent of respondents were supportive of the project, many saying it would deliver much-needed safety improvements, attract more cyclists to the area and be a catalyst for other cycling projects in the city.

Key design decisions

Better delineation:

Some submitters requested formal or better delineation between the cycle lane and the road, using design elements such as kerbs, raised surfaces, median or planting.

AT is now separating the two-way cycling facility from vehicle lanes via a 'raised separator' (along Beach Road, from Churchill Street to Mahuhu Crescent, and along Mahuhu Crescent itself) and with raised kerb separation (along Beach Road between Mahuhu Crescent and Britomart Place). The one-way cycle lane will be separated from vehicle lanes via a 50cm painted buffer.

Carparking:

The proposed removal or reconfiguration of car parking along the eastern side of Beach Road, Mahuhu Crescent and Tapora Street, and the loading areas in Beach Road, attracted comments both in support and opposition.

After reviewing the feedback, AT re-looked at ways of minimising impacts of the cycle path on parking. However, to construct a path without any impact on parking would require either expensive land acquisition in a dense urban environment or the removal of one lane of

vehicle traffic from a busy inner city arterial road. Neither of these options was deemed acceptable and therefore car parking spaces in these locations will still be removed or reconfigured as part of the project, as originally planned.

For more information on parking changes, visit the project webpage at www.AT.govt.nz/beachroad

Vehicles turning into side streets:

Some concerns were raised in relation to vehicles turning across the cycleway into side streets, notably Te Taou Crescent. Some people requested banning the right-turn into Te Taou Crescent, while others were concerned about potential impacts on residential and business properties if this occurred.

Turning movements into the non-signalised Te Taou Crescent North intersection will be banned to avoid vehicle and cyclist conflicts. In order to provide access to the buildings that rely on this intersection, the flow of vehicle traffic in the railway carpark will be reversed to allow vehicles to gain access to the affected buildings. This means that vehicles wanting to access Te Taou Crescent from Beach Road will need to use either the signalised Te Taou Crescent intersection or Mahuhu Crescent.

Pedestrian crossings:

Additional and improved pedestrian crossings were requested.

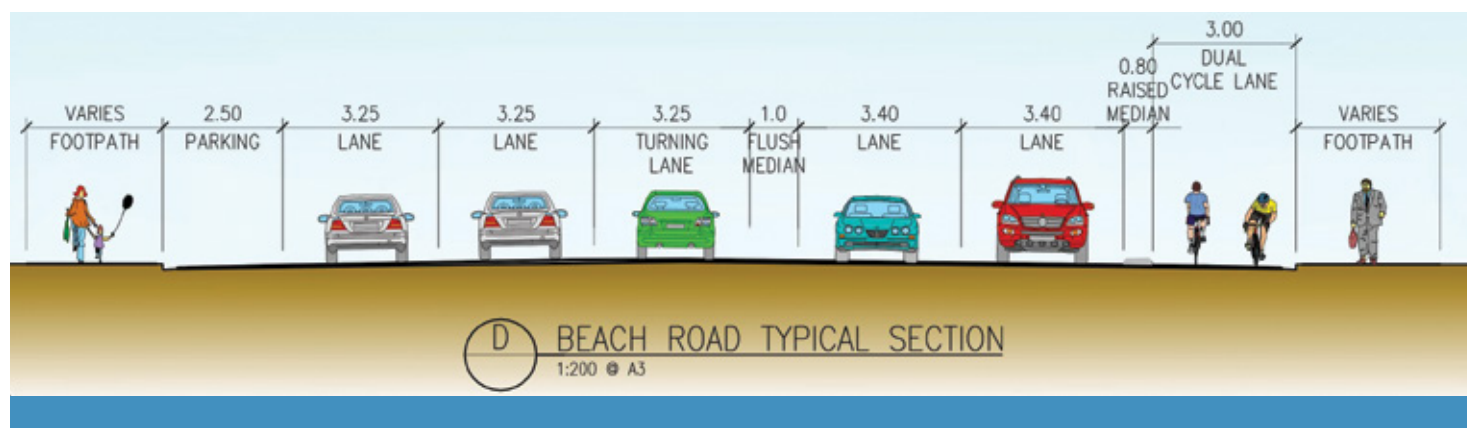
A new signalised intersection will be provided across Quay Street to enable pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road safely. Additionally, a new pedestrian crossing will be provided across Mahuhu Crescent to Tapora Street. No additional crossings will be provided on Beach Road.

Cycleway surface:

Some people emphasised that the cycleway surface needs to be appropriate.

The existing stormwater grates along the route will be replaced with cycle-friendly grates and the material for pedestrian crossing surfaces will be suitable for cyclists.

For more information on consultation feedback, visit www.AT.govt.nz/beachroad





Cycleway map

Contact us

For more information and updates on the Beach Road Walking and Cycling Improvements project, visit www.AT.govt.nz/beachroad.

Alternatively, call the AT call centre on **09 355 3553**.