



26 September 2025

Wellesley Street Bus Improvements (WSBI)

As spring rolls in, so does steady progress on our Wellesley Street Bus Improvement project. This month we cover milestone highlights from September, progress updates across work zones, a lookahead to October and beyond, and on-site photos capturing the action. From underground service installations to structural works, the transformation of Wellesley Street is well underway.

Milestones

Outside The Civic, a big section of the new Queen Street footpath (without the final paving) was temporarily opened just in time for the Priscilla Queen of the Desert pink carpet event. Work will start again in early October to finish this area. This was a great achievement by our team, who worked long hours in tough weather to meet the deadline.

Across the road, we're finishing the last section of footpath between Elliott Street and Queen Street on the northern side. Vector have just completed their service connection works outside the Smith & Caughey Business Tower so works to prepare the section of footpath for reinstatement and paving is underway.

We've also started constructing the new bus shelter on the northern footpath between Albert Street and Elliott Street. More details on that below.

Bus shelter installation commences this month

Installation of the first of four new bus shelters on Wellesley Street is now underway between Albert Street and Elliott Street (Zone 2). The new bus shelter outside Remedy Café and Father Ted's (Zone 3) will commence next week.

Construction of the shelter is staged, starting with the placement of steel beams - delivered by hiab and installed overnight. To ensure pedestrian safety during this phase, 1.8m temporary fencing has been reinstated.

While this construction is underway a safety zone has been established, temporarily narrowing the footpath. This may affect the use of some outdoor furniture during construction. We will work directly with impacted businesses to manage this.

Please note that the shelters will not be operational until the full project is completed in 2026.



Artist render of new Wellesley Street bus shelter

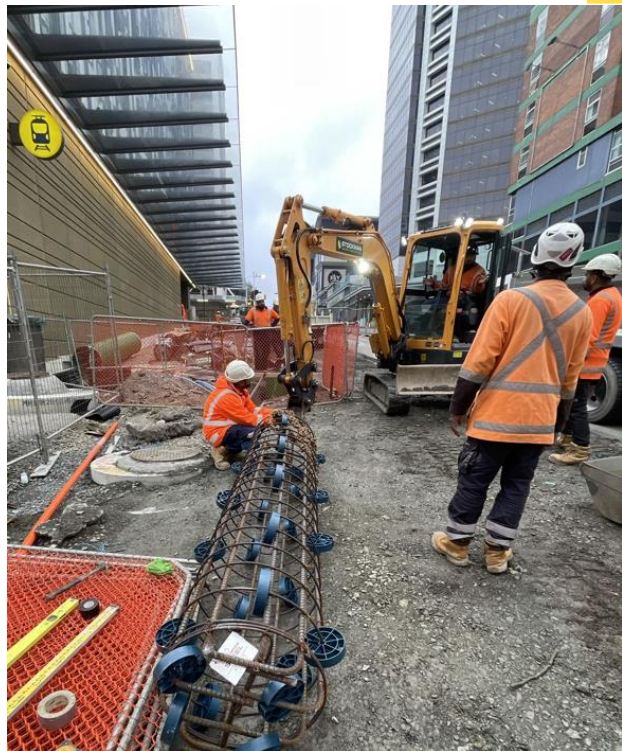
Footpath construction commencing mid-October

Between Queen Street and Bledisloe Lane, we will be excavating the existing footpath, installing new stormwater lines and service utilities, followed by the construction and paving of a new footpath. Access to businesses will always be maintained, though it may be via temporary ramps and a new temporary footpath along the concreted carriageway for a period.

WSBI WORK PROGRESS:

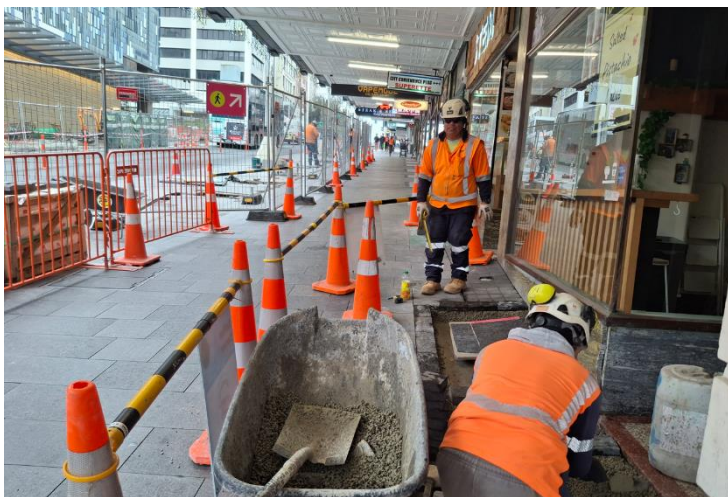
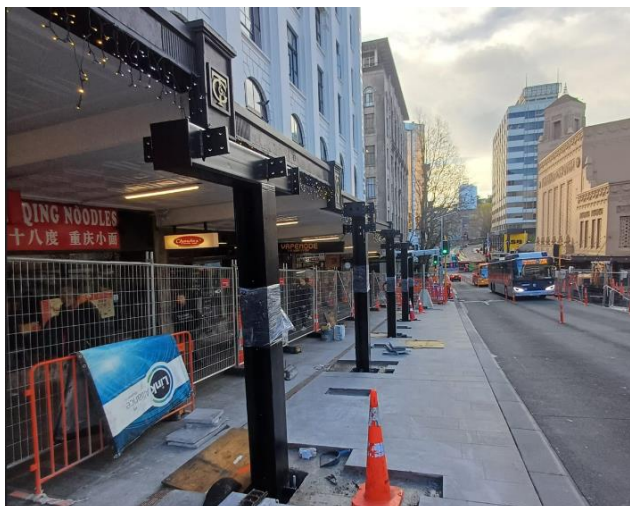
✓ ZONE 1 (Mayoral Drive to Bledisloe Lane):

- Lean mix concrete base of new southern carriageway has been poured (image left below).
- Concrete pours for new bus shelter and light pole foundations are now complete. Image right shows steel cage for the light pole foundation.
- Service installation is mostly finished, with some remaining works around the trees at Bledisloe Lane to be completed.
- Watermain, stormwater, and subsoil drainage installations are ongoing.



✓ ZONE 2 (Albert Street to Elliott Street):

- Paving works along building frontage will be complete in coming weeks. Paving outside the Elliott Hotel will be completed as part of the Elliott Street crossing programme later this year.
- A wash and seal of the footpath will take place next month.
- Bus shelter installation is underway (image left below). Steel beams were delivered and installed overnight this week– this will be followed by the construction of the shelter roof and glazing.
- The footpath between the bus shelter fencing and building frontage is narrower to allow space for works to take place safely.
- Street furniture (seating, rubbish bins, permanent signage) will be installed later this year.
- *Please note: Bus shelters will remain closed until the project is completed in 2026.*



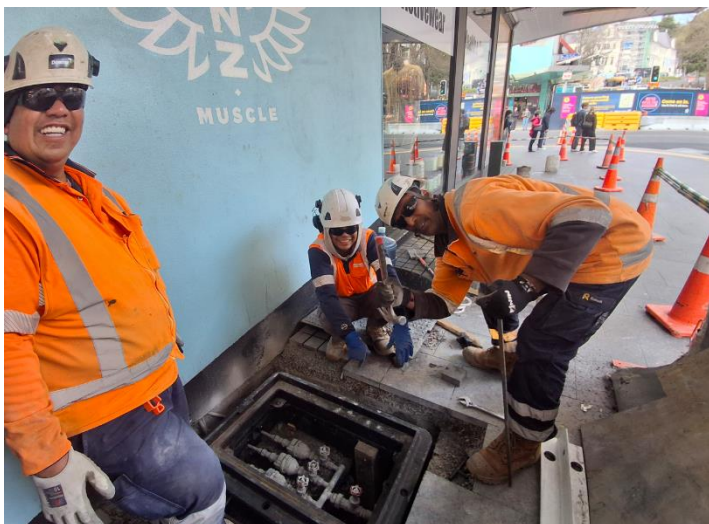
✓ ZONE 2.5 (Elliott Street crossing):

- Vector has completed all electrical installations along Elliott Street and are now reinstating the road and footpaths, removing fencing, and reinstalling street furniture. Their work is expected to be completed by the end of the month.
- Paving works outside the Elliott Hotel and across Elliott Street will continue in the coming months.
- The kerb build-out for the pedestrian crossing and paving for the permanent Elliott Street/Bledisloe Lane crossing will be constructed toward the end of the project.



✓ ZONE 3 (Elliott Street to Queen Street):

- Paving at the Queen Street corner is complete.
- Final grouting of small pavers along Wellesley Street are underway.
- Watermeter lids are being installed (image left below).
- Vector connection works outside the Smith & Caughey Business Tower are now complete and footpath reconstruction is underway (image right below). This involves backfill of the Vector pit, excavation of temporary asphalt then preparatio works for concrete pours. Paving will follow.
- Bus shelter installations will begin next week and follow the same process as the one currently underway in Zone 2.
- Street furniture (seating, rubbish bins, permanent signage) will be installed later this year.
- *Please note: Bus shelters will remain closed until the project is completed in 2026.*



✓ ZONE 4 (Queen Street to Bledisloe Lane):

- Outside The Civic, a large portion of new Queen Street footpath (minus the paving) was re-opened temporarily just in time for the Pink Carpet opening night of Priscilla Queen of the Desert. Works will resume to complete this area later this year (image below – top left shows concrete pours for footpath).
- Mid-next month the lean mix base slab of the new carriageway will be poured, and the pedestrian footpath between Queen Street and Bledisloe Lane will be modified. We will work directly with impacted businesses and access will always be maintained.
- Concrete pours for new bus shelter and light pole foundations are complete.
- Watermain, stormwater, and subsoil drainage installations are ongoing (image right below).
- Vector works continue (image below - bottom left)



Support through construction

If you have any questions about construction, please contact Downer's Stakeholder Manager Brandy Smith at brandy.smith@downer.co.nz or 027 692 3783.

To learn more about why we're upgrading Wellesley Street, visit the project page at <https://progressakl.co.nz/projects/auckland-transport/wellesley-street-bus-improvements/>.

To contact us or to arrange a time to meet our Auckland Council team, email Ben at midtown@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Or scan the QR code (right) to subscribe to regular construction updates >>.

