

Waitematā Local Active Modes Plan 2024

Public Feedback Report

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Overview

Auckland Transport is working with the Waitematā Local Board to improve walking and cycling options. The Local Active Modes Plan (LAMP) aims to identify opportunities to improve how residents experience their neighbourhood. The LAMP study area is located within the red boundary in the map



below.

The suburbs included in the study area include:

- Arch Hill
- Freemans Bay
- Grey Lynn
- Herne Bay
- Ponsonby
- St Marys Bay
- Three Lamps
- West Lynn
- Westmere

We conducted an information-gathering exercise to understand:

- Which roads and streets/paths/shortcuts residents like to take on foot or by bike.
- Which roads and streets residents tend to avoid, and why.
- Locations where residents would like to see safety and accessibility improvements.

The insights and feedback from this exercise will feed into a programme that prioritises small-to-medium scale improvements for walking and cycling.

How did we engage with the community?

In order to learn from the community about walking and cycling in Waitematā, we used a mix of online tools and in-person sessions:

- Our HaveYourSay website using the pin-drop tool (open from 2 May 2024 – 31 May 2024);
- Drop-in sessions held at the Grey Lynn Community Centre; and
- Online Teams Meetings with stakeholders.

Survey

Community insights were gathered using a pin-drop tool on our HaveYourSay website. Residents and key interest groups were invited to drop markers on areas inside a map (showing suburbs of interest) and give feedback. They could give feedback by choosing feedback categories pre-selected by us or by freely commenting.

Through the pin-drop tool, we heard from 99 participants who dropped 1,038 pins.

Drop-in sessions

We held three drop-in sessions at the Grey Lynn Community Centre to invite residents to share their thoughts in person.

The drop-in sessions took place on

- 19 May 2024
- 21 May 2024
- 23 May 2024

Over the three sessions, around 80 participants learned about the active modes plan and provided feedback.

Organisation sessions

We identified and engaged with organisations who have high interest and hold key insights on the neighbourhood. These organisations are listed below:

- Auckland Council (Parks Department)
- Ponsonby Business Association
- Grey Lynn Business Association
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand
- Bike Auckland
- Bike Grey Lynn
- Auckland Zoo

What did people tell us?

Feedback insights

These are the categories that we provided for the community to pin on locations:

- Feels unsafe cycling here
- Feels unsafe walking here
- Good cycling route / street
- Great shortcut (walking &/or cycling)
- Too much traffic / cars using as rat-run
- Cars drive too fast
- Needs new / better pedestrian crossing
- Important walking route
- Broken / narrow footpath
- Needs bike parking here please

Additional categories were also created from 'other' comments made by people which were not part of the original category list:

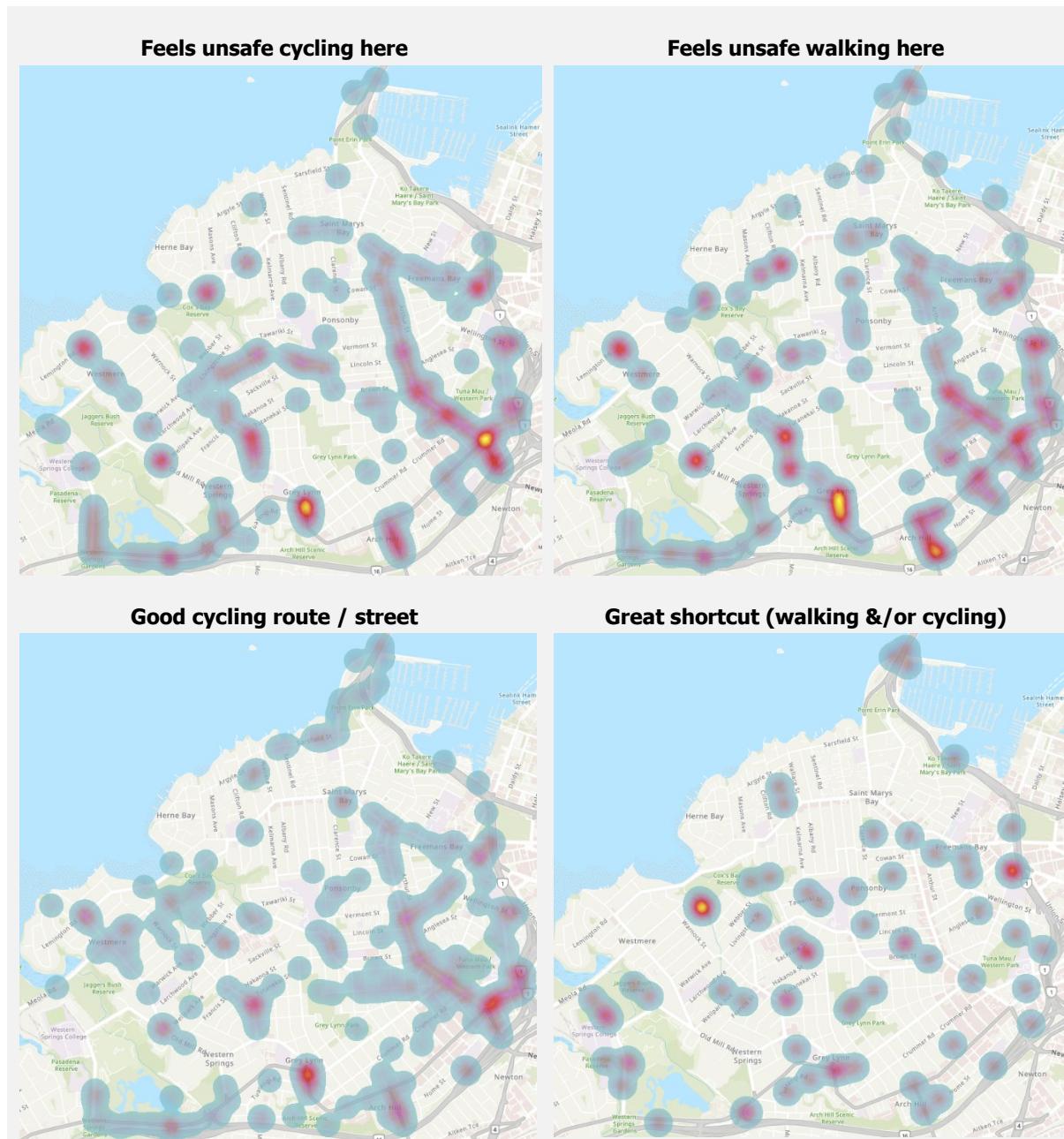
- Improve cycle lanes
- Increase traffic calming measures
- Increase enforcements against illegal car parking
- More accessible and safer pedestrian walkways
- Improve street lighting and signage
- Improve road infrastructure
- Transform into a community space
- Add more greenery to the area
- Regulate and remove freedom campers from public space

Here are heat maps showing how the pin drops were distributed based on where the community pinned the categories:

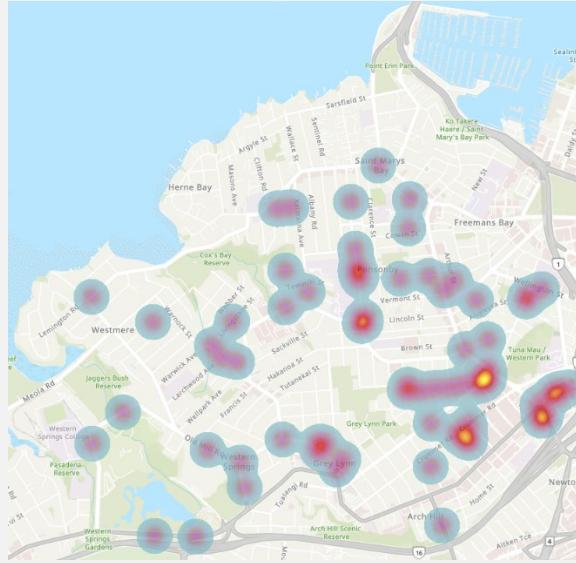
Legend:



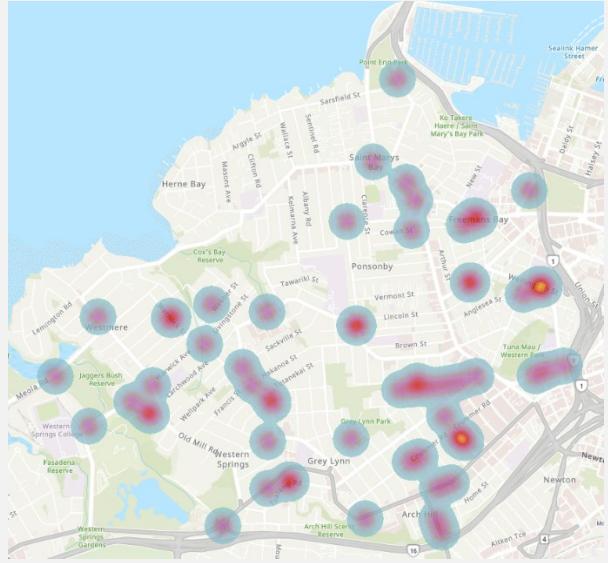
Yellow and red areas show the most frequent locations for each pin type.



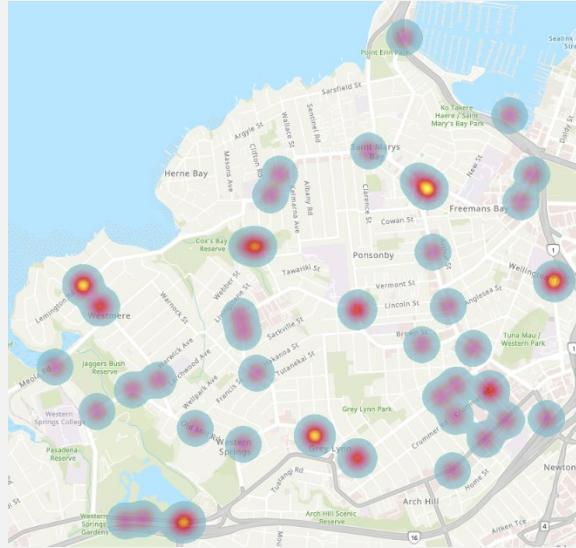
Too much traffic / cars using as rat-run



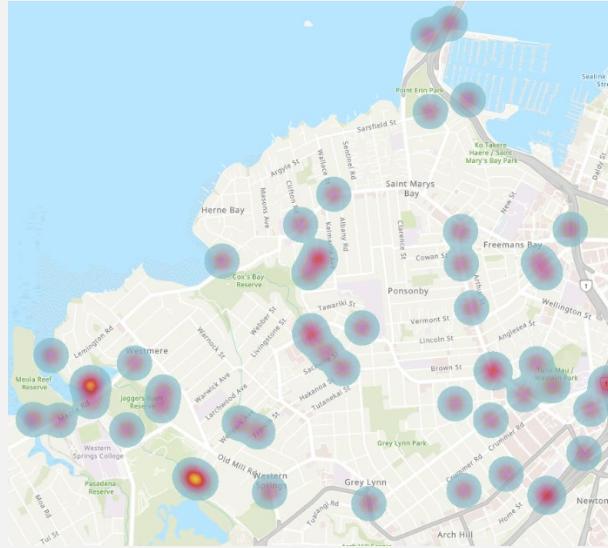
Cars drive too fast



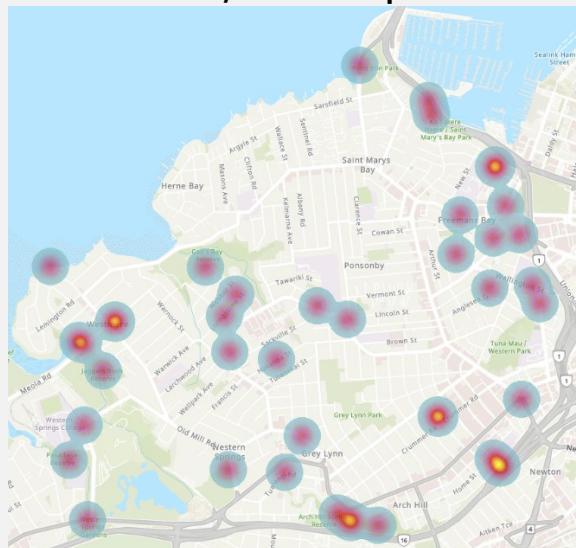
Needs new / better pedestrian crossing



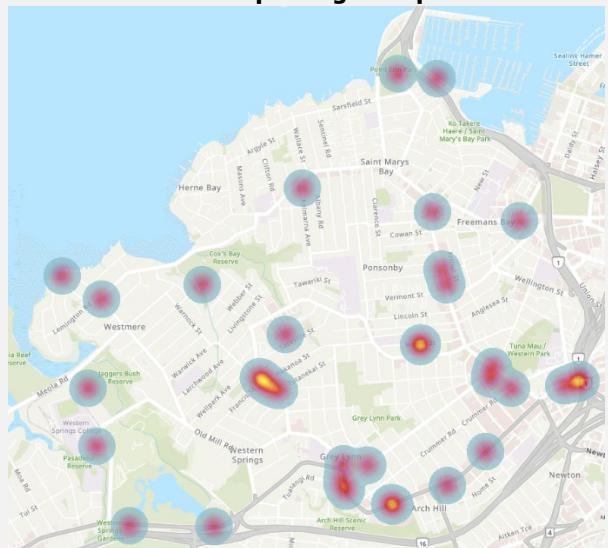
Important walking route



Broken / narrow footpath



Needs bike parking here please



What we learned

The community shared their local knowledge, telling us:

- Where people most like to ride or walk, and why.
- Where the good quiet routes cut throughs are and what could be done to improve them.
- Where we need to install bike parking.
- Where there are maintenance issues that need to be addressed.

Road safety concerns are still a barrier

- At certain locations, traffic volumes and speeds through some residential streets are making it hard / unsafe to cross local roads, particularly at side street intersections.
- Certain intersections feel unsafe as a pedestrian or on a bike.
- There are some roads that lack safe crossings or existing crossings don't feel safe enough.
- Main roads lacking protected cycleways is a cause for concern among people who ride.

We learned about the Waitematā community's priorities and concerns

- There is enthusiasm for quick wins that will make a big difference to how pleasant / easy it is to walk / bike around the area.
- There is desire for walking improvements and place-making to support vibrancy and liveliness of shopping areas.
- The City Centre is a popular destination for walking and cycling trips.
- There is concern around construction and parking associated with major projects.

We appreciate your time and feedback on this project. Please visit [the project webpage](#) to see specific comments and locations of feedback.

Next Steps

We have collated these insights and created recommendations for the Waitematā Local Board to review and approve. We will then deliver approved projects within our funding constraints. Any projects initiated from this plan will go through community and stakeholder engagement / consultation in line with normal Auckland Transport processes.

Comments and suggestions that we are unable to action within this programme will be passed on to the relevant teams to address.