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FAQs – Intersection safety improvements at Ngapipi Road and Ngaiwi Street, Ōrakei

1. Why is this project needed? Is the crash data significant enough to justify these changes?
Yes. Crash data and intersection risk assessments identified safety concerns at this location. These findings prompted the need for improvements.

2. Why a roundabout instead of traffic lights? How does it improve safety?
The curves in Ngapipi Road, combined with large trees and limited space, make it difficult for drivers to clearly see traffic signals at this location.

A roundabout is a more suitable solution as it:

- Improves safety by reducing the likelihood and severity of crashes
- Provides better traffic flow, with less congestion along Ngapipi Road compared to signals.

3. Will the roundabout reduce traffic congestion?
The proposed roundabout is primarily designed to improve safety at the intersection by addressing crossing and turning crashes. It will encourage lower vehicle speeds and safer driving behaviour by requiring motorists to follow give-way rules.The roundabout is not expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion.

4. Why is the zebra crossing being moved?
We received feedback from the community about the originally proposed location of the zebra crossing. In response, the crossing has been moved back by approximately 5–7 metres to address these concerns and improve safety and usability.

5. Why keep the left-turn lane? Will this be safe with a roundabout in place?
Community feedback supported retaining the left-turn lane on Ngaiwi Street. Our assessment shows that:

- Keeping or removing the lane does not significantly impact traffic performance
- There are no reported crashes associated with the current arrangement

For these reasons, the left-turn lane has been retained.

6. Why remove the traffic island?
Removing the traffic island helps larger vehicles, such as buses and semi-trailers, better align when navigating the roundabout. However, this may encourage slightly higher speeds, which will be monitored once the project is complete.

7. Can heavy vehicles like buses and freight safely use the roundabout?
Yes. Detailed vehicle tracking has been carried out to ensure that buses, freight vehicles, and other large vehicles can safely navigate the roundabout.

8. Will there be a risk of heavy vehicles damaging the roundabout?
No. The roundabout will be raised by approximately 50 mm and designed to be mountable. This allows heavy vehicles, including trucks, to safely travel over it if needed without causing damage.

9. Why is parking being removed?
A small number of parking spaces on the northern side will be removed to allow buses travelling from Ngapipi Road to make the left turn into Ngaiwi Street safely. We will continue to look for opportunities to minimise parking loss where possible.

10. Did Auckland Transport listen to community feedback?
Yes. Community feedback has directly influenced the revised design presented to the Local Board. Changes made in response include:

- Retaining the left-turn lane
- Relocating the zebra crossing
- Retaining elements of the interim cycle lanes

This design reflects what we heard from the community.

11. When will construction happen and what should we expect?
Construction is currently planned for the 2026/27 period.

More detailed information will be shared closer to the start date, including:

- Construction timing
- Traffic management
- Access arrangements
- Potential noise and disruption

We will keep residents informed throughout.

12. Is this the final design?
Yes. This is the final design, incorporating community feedback.