

## Grey Lynn Greenway opening speech

Tena koutou huihui mai nei

Talofa lava

Warm greetings to everyone gathered here

As the heart of Tāmaki Makaurau we're really fortunate to attend and host many openings of new and upgraded community assets. The Grey Lynn Greenway is one that I have been especially looking forward to and feel very fortunate to be opening as Chair of the Local Board. Thank you to everyone who has come along this afternoon. I'm joined by my local board colleagues Adriana Christie, Rob Thomas and Shale Chambers. We're fortunate Mayor Phil has had a lot of practice lately for opening new pathways and is able to join us. I'd especially like to acknowledge former board member Christopher Dempsey who is here to celebrate with us (Tricia Reade sends her apologies).



When I am out and about one of the positive comments I hear the most from locals is how much they are enjoying the walking and cycling improvements in our area. There is a tremendous desire to be able to jump on bikes at any age for local trips or recreational rides.

When I moved into this area over 10 years ago with my partner Paul (here with Bike Grey Lynn) we bought bikes to get around. Like most people cycling back then we were shocked at the hostile road environment and the lack of cycling facilities. At the same time there seemed to be some really obvious "quick wins" to make walking and cycling far more pleasant. Paul first suggested to me the idea of a "Greenlink" connecting Grey Lynn Park with Coxs Bay. This was on a wave of hearing about Bicycle boulevards and greenways transforming neighbourhoods overseas. I am sure many people had similar ideas at the time as an extension to the existing walking connection established by the Western Bays Community Board (Graeme Easte just called from Whangerei to give his apologies – probably just as well he is not here as I'm sure he'd tell me I have the history of this route wrong!)

The super city finally provided the opportunity to tackle some of those so called quick wins in Waitemātā. The Greenlink idea was embraced by the first Waitemātā Local Board supporting a network connections linking our green spaces and reserves that then became a real project with a Waitemātā Greenways Plan approved in 2013 – the second local board to complete a plan after Puketāpapa.

The Grey Lynn Greenway has been built in stages as funds have allowed. The boardwalk in Coxs Bay was rebuilt and paths widened in 2014. Widened paths in Hakanoa Reserve and Grey Lynn Park were completed last year. The on road sections finally got the green light with a funding contribution from the Urban Cycling Investment fund. We now have a complete, attractive off road route from West End Road to Williamson Ave through our beautiful parks. It opens up connections to sports facilities, schools, local shops and will



link into the network of safe routes about to get underway on Great North Road, Richmond Road and Surrey Cres. And of course a connection to the new Grey Lynn pump track (great to see Scott here who has been instrumental in that project). We fortunate that the community has got behind the Grey Lynn pump track and the pollinator path planting that will further enhance to the greenway. We're already hearing about the wider mobility and accessibility benefits of the Greenway. A bike school bus has started from Grey Lynn School and wheelchair users are able to easily cross Richmond Road for the first time on the new crossing.

There are still things to get right and we've heard AT acknowledge the design and consultation issues on one section. Auckland Council also has a path section in Coxs Bay to finish off that got held up by the resource consent. I'm confident that we'll work through these issues with AT and the community so that everyone can enjoy and benefit from a new community asset.

We're also looking forward to working with AT on our next Greenway project to open up the old Parnell train tunnel – but more of that another day!

I'd like to end with the many thanks in order.



*Members of the project team with Mayor Phil Goff*

- To the community for all the support for the Greenway and for your patience with the construction.
- To the volunteers and guardians of the park we look forward to continuing to work with you into the future to further enhance the greenway.
- To the advocates for who have been unwavering in the task of making Auckland a great place to get around.
- Thanks to the designers, planners, engineers, technical and support people who all do the hard work behind the scenes. The thanks on this goes back over many years to David Little and Lynda Lucas who worked on the Greenways plan.
- The many parks people who worked on the off road sections – too many to name today.
- The AT team who have worked on the project including Priscilla and Ben (the former and current local board liaison manager) – the quiet operators who know how to bang heads together to achieve results for local boards
- And thanks to all those involved in the AT part of the project from Auckland Transport, MR Cagney, MWH and TSL including
  - AT – Ken Lee Jones (Project sponsor) Paul Buckle (W&C client), Ameer Bahho (Project Manager)
  - MWH – Sagar Kariya (Designer)

- o MRCagney – Abby Granbery (Peer Review lead)
- o TSL – Ikram Patel (Contractors Rep) Mohammed Buksh (Site Engineer)

I hope you will all join me for a ride over once we've finished the formalities.

## **Auckland Transport media release published on Our Auckland: Grey Lynn cycling and walking path opens**

Published: 2 June 2017

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Mayor Phil Goff and Waitematā Local Board Chair Pippa Coom open the Grey Lynn Greenway route.

A new shared path from Great North Road to West End Road was officially opened on 2 June.

The Grey Lynn Greenway route runs through Cox's Bay Reserve, Hakanoa Reserve and Grey Lynn Reserve, where the path has been widened. The on-road sections of the route include traffic-calming measures, better crossing opportunities and a roundabout.

Mayor Phil Goff says, "This route came about because of the vision of local people to link up green spaces with safe walking and cycling connections. The route is great for the community, improves safety and creates real transport choice for people in the area."

### **Connections to other routes**

Waitematā Local Board Chair Pippa Coom says, "We're really excited to see our first greenway open. The route provides a great link through our parks and will connect to the new Richmond Road and Great North Road cycleways due to be completed by

2018. It will connect to future cycleways at West End Road, Williamson Avenue and Bond Street.”

### \$200 million cycle programme

Auckland Transport is working with project partners Auckland Council and the government through the NZ Transport Agency and the Urban Cycleways Programme on a \$200 million programme of cycle improvements from 2015 to 2018.

The Grey Lynn Greenway project cost around \$1.5 million dollars, which came from local board funding, Auckland Transport and the New Zealand Transport Agency.