

Auckland Transport Media Releases in October 2017 Relevant to Howick Local Board Area

Auckland Transport media release

27 October 2017



Auckland Transport is making it easier to pay for parking

It's getting easier to use parking machines with Auckland Transport upgrading its 810 on-street parking machines.

The new Pay by Plate technology means all you have to do is punch in your registration number and pay.

John Strawbridge, Group Manager Parking Services and Compliance says there's no need to walk back to your vehicle with a ticket, the system is paperless.

"Not only will these new machines save you time, they use technology that's very similar to the way you pay for everyday items like coffee."

The newly upgraded machines mean you have the choice of machines that use coins, credit cards or cards that have payWave. Around ten per cent machines will only accept cards.

Text-a-Park is no longer available but customers can download the new AT Park phone app to pay for parking.

Mr Strawbridge says the app is popular with around 27,000 downloads. "Our customers like the start and stop function, it's taken away the need to guess how much time you need to pay for."

Pay by Plate machines are already used in some private car parks in Auckland and on the streets in Tauranga and Christchurch.

The new machines will be rolled out in stages, the first ones hit the streets of Ponsonby this week. They will be rolled out in Newmarket next month, followed by Parnell, Kingsland and Remuera before Christmas. The city centre, Takapuna, Manukau and Eden Terrace will see the machines introduced early next year.

The new machines will not affect the price of pay and display parking and receipts can be emailed to customers who require them for work purposes.

For more information and to watch the instructional video, visit <https://at.govt.nz/driving-parking/paying-for-parking/pay-by-plate-parking/>

Auckland Transport media release



17 October 2017

Public transport numbers the best in more than 60 years

Auckland's public transport users have clocked up 90 million trips on buses, trains and ferries over the past year, the last time Auckland saw that many trips was way back in 1956.

Auckland Transport's Chief Transport Services Officer Mark Lambert says, "Auckland in 1956 was a totally different city. It was the last year the trams were running, trolley buses were very popular and ferry numbers were high because the Harbour Bridge was still three years away."

In 1956 Auckland was a much smaller city, with a population of around 400,000, but car ownership was still not the norm.

Mr Lambert says "This was the beginning of the era of the car in Auckland, the Northwestern and Southern Motorways had just partially opened, so people were buying cars and public transport usage was dropping by around 8 million trips a year."

The numbers using public transport in Auckland bottomed out at 28 million and stayed low until 2002.

Since then public transport usage has grown steadily with train patronage rising from 3 million trips a year to 20 million.

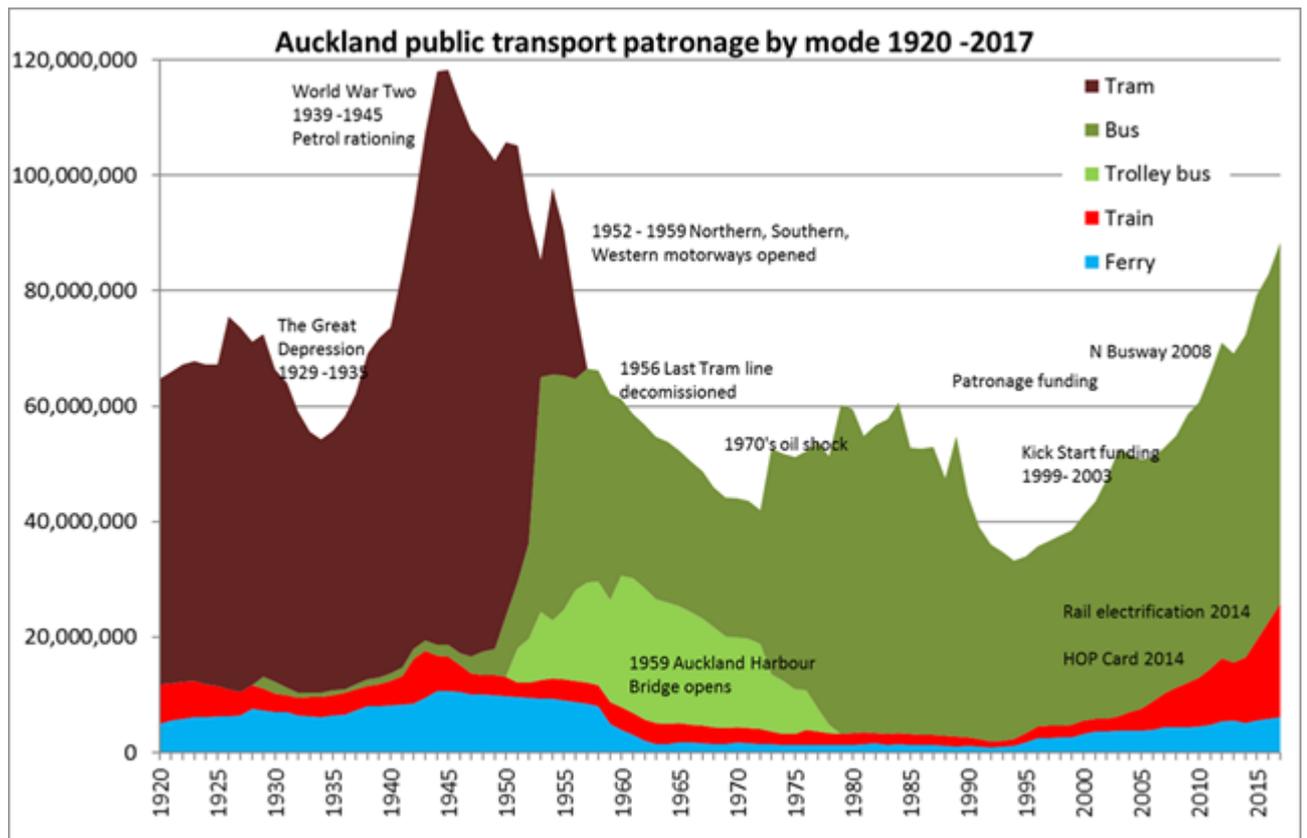
The 90 million mark is an increase of 6 million on the previous year, a growth of 6.7 percent.

Auckland Council Planning Committee Chair Chris Darby says he is excited about the future of transport for Auckland, "We're in the midst of a public transport revolution, with record levels of patronage across public transport. Aucklanders have a growing appetite for bus, ferry and rail travel, and making this reliable and easy to use is a key priority."

Customer satisfaction also continues to rise, reaching 90.5 percent for bus customers, 93.7 percent for train and 91 percent for ferry.

"I use the ferry daily and I'm really happy to see the satisfaction levels on the rise.

"We've come a long way, but we can still do better. There's even more services to be rolled out next year – hopefully this will see our patronage pass 100 million, and our customer satisfaction reach 100 percent."



A video featuring the views of some public transport users is available here: <https://youtu.be/hEckKqihv5U>

Auckland Transport media release

12 October 2017



Improving traffic flow on Ti Rakau Drive

Improved journey times are on the way for everyone who uses Ti Rakau Drive.

Auckland Transport (AT) is proposing to change intersection layouts, put in peak hour bus lanes and upgrade pedestrian and cycling facilities. These measures will improve journey times on Ti Rakau Drive and nearby streets.

This work is part of AT's wider plan to improve connectivity, reliability, shorten journey times and provide practical alternatives for getting to, from and around East Auckland. The plan also includes the rollout of the East Auckland New Network bus routes from December and AMETI Eastern Busway which is expected to be completed in 2026.

Randhir Karma, AT's Group Manager Network Management and Safety says congestion in Auckland is getting worse. "We want to deal with congestion now, so we are targeting short term improvements."

Ti Rakau Drive is one of the busiest roads in East Auckland. On average 35,000 vehicles travel this road every day. "These huge numbers mean there is traffic congestion and frustration for people using the road. We want to shorten queues and improve reliability and punctuality of bus services.

"We're looking at peak time bus lanes and intersection changes to make Ti Rakau Drive a safer and more pleasant journey for everyone who uses it."

AT is currently undertaking community consultation on this proposal which has six separate parts:

- Putting in peak hour bus lanes on Ti Rakau Drive, between Wheatley Avenue and Gossamer Drive.
- Removing the right turns at the Edgewater Drive (eastern end) intersection with Ti Rakau Drive.
- Adding two right turn traffic lanes into Gossamer Drive from Ti Rakau Drive.
- Extending the two left turn traffic lanes into Botany Road from Ti Rakau Drive.
- Extending the left turn lane into Ti Rakau Drive by changing Te Irirangi Drive's layout at the Countdown entrance.
- Adding two left turn traffic lanes into Chapel Road from Ti Rakau Drive.

More information on the proposal and design plans are available on the project webpage: <http://at.govt.nz/haveyoursay>.

Over the next few weeks, residents and business in the immediate area will receive a flyer in the mail outlining the proposal and providing an opportunity to give feedback. A public open day will be held on Saturday 28 October, 11am-3pm, at the Botany Town Centre (opposite Muffin Break), 588 Chapel Road, East Tamaki. This is an opportunity for the public to discuss the proposal with the project team.

The public consultation period will close at midnight on Sunday 12 November. Feedback will be analysed and available in early 2018. If the decision is made to proceed with the proposal, construction is expected to start in late 2018.