

# Summary of city centre projects and initiatives to 23 March 2018

## City centre overview

### Central Wharves

1. Panuku Development Auckland is preparing the updated resource consent for the Queens Wharf Mooring dolphin. This is expected to be lodged by the end of April 2018. The Dolphin will be delivered as part of the Downtown Infrastructure Development Programme.
2. The council family has finished a review focused on the interfaces between the council's city centre planning and the Ports of Auckland 30-year Master Plan. This highlights synergies with Quay Street, Central Wharves and the Quay Park area, including opportunities with respect to the City Centre Master Plan and wider road network strategies. This review is being discussed as part of a Planning Committee workshop on 5 April 2018, on the Ports of Auckland 30-year Master Plan.

### America's Cup (AC36)

3. Procurement of the construction and design partners for the Alliance delivering the America's Cup base infrastructure requirements has been completed. The Alliance is co-locating with council.
4. Discussions between the council, central Government and Emirates Team New Zealand are progressing towards an agreement on a preferred base location.

### Downtown

5. The Downtown Infrastructure Development Programme is set to lodge consents for the Quay Street Seawall, ferry infrastructure and Queens Wharf Mooring Dolphin by the end of April 2018. The remaining consent applications will be lodged by the end of the third quarter of 2018.
6. Construction of the first tranche of the seawall is due to commence towards the end of 2018, with the remainder of physical works to follow on progressively. The programme team are working with Commercial Bay, Cooper and Company, City Rail Link Limited and the America's Cup Alliance to coordinate construction activities in the area.
7. Public consultation on the programme and its constituent projects is well underway with a further public drop-in sessions scheduled for 27 March 2018. The programme team is also working with the Auckland Design Office to implement a development response strategy for the programme.

### Midtown

8. Auckland Transport is progressing the indicative business case for the Midtown Bus Project, which includes the streetscape and amenity upgrade for Wellesley Street. The Auckland Council and Auckland Transport teams are currently reviewing the project alignment, and phasing of the Victoria Linear Park and Wellesley Street, with the City Rail Link development.
9. Planning is underway for a section of the Victoria Linear Park to be delivered alongside the City Rail Link works on Victoria Street.

### Learning Quarter

10. Albert Park improvement projects are in delivery. The CCTV and lighting upgrade is due for completion at the end of March 2018. Work on the caretaker's cottage and

band pavilion is due to start March 2018. Path improvements, landscaping changes around the Chris Booth Sculpture on Victoria Street, and signage are in the final design stage, with delivery anticipated by December 2018.

11. Road layout changes for St Paul Street are in the final planning stage, with delivery anticipated in the second quarter of 2018.
12. Problem parking has been improved on Alfred Street. Temporary bollards are in place, and placekit elements are due to be installed in April 2018.
13. The Learning Quarter Working Group is considering undertaking a Destination Plan with the support of Activate Auckland.

### **Homelessness**

14. Housing First Auckland has placed 336 people (184 adults and 152 children) placed into permanent homes since March 2017. Thirty-three people have been housed in the central city and the average length of time participants have been homeless is 14 years.
15. Housing First Auckland is leading the design and delivery of a regional point-in-time count. Planning is currently underway with key stakeholders and the count is currently scheduled for September 2018. The count aims to enhance the understanding of the Auckland homeless population (size and demographic).
16. Funding from council's regional homelessness budget will be allocated to RainbowYOUTH to recruit a homelessness advisor for a 12 month period. This project aims to respond to the needs and issues of queer and gender diverse rangatahi homelessness within Tāmaki Makaurau.

### **Public amenities**

17. The City Centre Public Amenities review was presented to the Waitemātā Local Board on the 20 February 2018. The review found that there is currently no coordinated approach to the provision of public amenities in the city centre. Eleven recommendations that impact across policy and operations were identified as a result of the review, including that a strategy be developed to guide the provision of public amenities and that cross council leadership should be identified. The following resolution were passed by the Waitemātā Local Board (resolution WTM/2018/30):
  - endorse the City Centre Public Amenities Project – A case for Public Amenities as Critical Social and Cultural Infrastructure (CCPA)
  - confirm the board's role as champions in the provision of more and enhanced city centre amenities including toilets, showers, water fountains and lockers, which enhance the dignity, health and wellbeing of residents, workers and visitors
  - request City Rail Link Limited review the city rail link station designs to ensure full public access to the toilet and shower facilities for customers and general public.

### **A partnering approach to address housing needs**

18. To accommodate the growing demand for services, the Auckland City Mission is planning to redevelop their site on Hobson Street which will increase its capacity to provide social housing services. The redevelopment will include a purpose built facility, known as Mission HomeGround, to deliver current services for those in need and 80 social housing units with the necessary wraparound services to enable people to improve their wellbeing and sustain their tenancies. Mission HomeGround is based on

the supportive housing model known as 'Common Ground' and is compatible with the Housing First approach. The City Mission's goal is to have the new building read by 2020.

19. Housing New Zealand is working closely with current residents, government agencies, partners, support services and neighbours to design a new approach for supportive accommodation at their site at 139 Greys Avenue in the central city. The proposed new building, which would house approximately 200-220 public rental units, would be designed to give tenants a safe space to call their own while maintaining vital connections with the community. Wrap-around support services and onsite community facilities would be provided to support tenancy sustainment. It is anticipated that building construction would start in 2019 and be ready for new tenants by 2021.

### **Activate Auckland: Supporting business**

20. The business support package has been launched through the Karangahape Road Business Association. The package is promoted by the business association, Auckland Transport and Auckland Council, it is a pilot created in partnership with Mentors NZ, the Auckland Chamber of Commerce and City Rail Link Limited. To date 13 businesses have taken up the offer of support from a mentor, and there is much interest in the social media training and Chamber of Commerce membership.

### **Events**

21. Fiesta on O'Connell was held in early March, with activation to support local businesses. This is being followed up with Walk on O'Connell which will be hosted in May, as part of the Auckland Writer's Festival.
22. Over the next few months Activate Auckland is supporting the Art Speaks event in April, the Doc Edge Festival and Writers Festival in May, and the Festival of Photography in June. It is also supporting Matariki in June with lightboxes, content in Pā Rongorongo and advisory input.

### **Griffiths Gardens – Pā Rongorongo/Information Hub**

23. Pā Rongorongo was launched by Mayor Phil Goff and Viv Beck on 15 February 2018.
24. It was officially opened to the public on 13 March 2018. There have been six tours, workshops and events hosted in the space, and 104 people visited in the first week.
25. Several organisations have shown interest in creating a similar hub in South Auckland.

### **For the Love of Bees Project**

26. Twelve successful community events were hosted by the team in February, including the seed saving masterclass and bee safe gardening clubs.
27. The Rongoā Garden celebrated the arrival of three Pou on 15 February 2018, which pave the way for establishing an environment to bring traditional Māori culture, gardening techniques and healing knowledge into the city centre.

### **Tactical urban interventions**

28. Projects currently underway include:
  - Federal Street Contraflow Cycleway – has been completed in collaboration with Auckland Transport
  - Federal Street Shared Space – working with Sky City
  - St Paul Street – working with Auckland Transport and the Auckland University of Technology

- Alfred Street – working with Auckland Transport and the University of Auckland.

### **City Rail Link Limited**

29. Britomart: The construction of the City Rail Link tunnels through the Commercial Bay site will continue until mid-2018. The latter half of the year will see the excavation of the tunnels across Lower Queen Street – forming the connection to the existing tracks.
30. Albert Street: For the duration of 2018 the tunnel box will be excavated and formed along Albert Street (between Wyndham Street and Customs Street), joining up with the tunnels at the edge of Commercial Bay. Towards the end of the year the first section of Albert Street will be reinstated.
31. Aotea Station: Enabling works are beginning in April 2018. The first step is the removal of canopies from buildings along the western side of Albert Street, between Wellesley Street and Victoria Street. The affected buildings are the AA, Manhattan Apartments, SkyCity and Auckland Council. From August 2018-April 2019 underground utilities will be re-located in this section of the street.

### **Aotea Quarter**

32. Staff are working with the Q Theatre to upgrade their street frontage and create a pocket park to activate the public realm. This will provide connection between the internal and external aspects of the building and the public egress through to the back of the Town Hall. It will encourage fresh engagement with this public space and will act as a trial for other activated zones on Queen Street.
33. Connections are being made between Aotea Quarter venues and Pā Rongorongo. Venues have the opportunity to showcase content in the space, set up artist residencies, and get involved via digital mapping and printed material.

### **Cycle Network**

34. Quay Street: Construction is progressing according to plan, with the new median island completed in time for the Round the Bays event. Work for the new bi-directional cycleway is now taking place along the northern side of Quay Street.
35. Tāmaki Drive cycleway: The project is currently at the end of the preliminary design phase and will shortly start detailed design, subject to New Zealand Transport Agency funding approval. An arborist report is being prepared considering affected trees on either side of the road.
36. Nelson Street Cycleway: Construction of stage 2 of the Nelson Street Cycleway (from Victoria Street to Pakenham Street East in Market Place, and Pitt Street from Beresford Square to Hobson Street) is complete, except for a speed table to be installed on Market Place near Pakenham Street East. The final section to Quay Street is being delivered as part of the Westhaven to the City cycleway stage 2.
37. Westhaven to City (Stage 2): An integrated streetscape/cycleway project is being investigated for Market Place and Customs Street. This is as a result of consultation feedback received late 2017. We expect to decide on an option in mid-2018. Further consultation may be required following the decision.
38. Victoria Street Cycleway: Detailed design for the Beaumont Street to Hobson Street section is currently being reviewed (including an urban design review), with construction expected in late 2018. This cycleway links to a number of existing and proposed cycle facilities; including Franklin Road, Victoria Park (through to Wynyard Quarter) and Nelson Street.

## Wynyard Quarter Redevelopment

39. Tiramarama Way (east-west pedestrian laneway between Halsey Street and Daldy Street): Construction work commenced November 2017. Works are progressing well and it is anticipated that the laneway will be complete by mid-2018. The work is being undertaken by Panuku Development Auckland.
40. Wynyard Central: Construction work is ongoing on the last two stages of this Wills Bond residential development, comprising eight townhouses and 80 apartments. Completion is due mid-2018.
41. 132 Halsey Street: Construction work is ongoing on this Wills Bond residential development of 51 apartments with ground floor retail. Completion is due mid-2018.
42. 30 Madden Street: A new residential development of 91 apartments, maisonettes and penthouses, with ground floor retail and hospitality spaces, is due to commence mid-late 2018.
43. 10 Madden Street: Construction work on precinct's third commercial building is due to commence mid-2018.
44. Park Hyatt Hotel: Construction is ongoing on this Fu Wah development. The hotel is due to open the first quarter of 2019.
45. Watercare Pump Station: Construction work is still ongoing. Works are due for completion, including commissioning and final connections, in May 2018.

## City centre targeted rate-funded projects – status update

Project	Delivery stage	Comments
<b>Downtown Public spaces</b>	Design and consultation	The Downtown Public Spaces project is progressing in conjunction with other projects in this area. Integration with the seawall project is being planned by the programme team and the technical consultants.
<b>Britomart streetscapes</b>	Design and consultation	Planning is underway for Stage 3. Work will be coordinated with the Downtown Programme as well as planned private developments.
<b>Myers Park upgrade - stage 2</b>	Design and consultation	Reports on proposed scope and budget changes were presented to Waitemata Local Board and the advisory board on 20 March 2018. Both boards were supportive of the project, with some concerns over budget. Staff is finding out if additional funding is available from Community Facilities and Healthy

		Waters.
<b>Karangahape Road Streetscape Enhancement and Cycleway</b>	Design and consultation	<p>Developed design is complete and feedback is being collected from internal specialists. Detailed design should start in April/May 2018 with completion expected by August 2018.</p> <p>Engagement with the local community is ongoing – the business association, the Design Reference Group and the public, via drop in-sessions in mid-March 2018. The first monthly project newsletter was distributed in March 2018.</p> <p>A presentation was made to Waitemata Local Board at their workshop on 13 March 2018.</p> <p>A presentation was made to Karangahape Road Business Association committee on 8 March 2018. Whilst there was concern over the loss of parking, overall the association has agreed the project is taking the right direction. On 20 March 2018 the association issued a positive statement on the parking opportunities presented by the new plan.</p> <p>The council family is progressing with the coordination of all projects in the precinct.</p>
<b>Poynton Terrace</b>	Design and consultation	<p>Consultation with project neighbours closed in early February 2018. Engagement with mana whenua is ongoing. The team is responding to feedback.</p> <p>Construction drawings and storm water analysis are being reviewed; with construction due to begin in May 2018.</p> <p>The Waitemata Local Board resolved that the project be completed as soon as possible (resolution WTM/2018/27).</p>
<b>Federal Street Upgrade – stage 2</b>	Design and consultation	<p>Public consultation on the concept design closed in December 2017. The feedback report is being finalised and is due to be released in March 2018.</p>
<b>Skypath</b>	Feasibility and investigation	<p>Auckland Council is continuing to work with the NZTA on progressing SkyPath.</p> <p>Options to deliver SkyPath and</p>

		SeaPath together are being considered.
<b>Freyberg Place</b>	Feasibility and investigation	Auckland Transport is progressing the change in status of the square; from a road to a pedestrian mall. This proposal will go out for public consultation in the coming weeks and stakeholders will be contracted as part of the process.
<b>Hobson and Nelson Street upgrades</b>	Feasibility and investigation	Phasing and planning options for both streets are being assessed.
<b>Beach Road Māori artwork</b>	Construction	Installation of the sculptures is planned on 28 March 2018. With an official opening happening soon after.
<b>O'Connell Street public art</b>	Construction	Resource consent has been obtained. Detailed design is completed and building consent is in process. Fabrication and installation is planned for April/May 2018.