WAKA KOTAHI
NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Northern Corridor Improvements Project – State Highway 1 Shared Path Opening Event
Date	15 March 2023
Briefing number	BRI-2726

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	**Position**	**Direct line**	**Cell phone**	**1st contact**
Steve Mutton	Director Regional Relationships - Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau		Section 9(2)(a)	✓

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ **Noted**
- ☐ **Seen by Minister**
- ☐ **Agreed**
- ☐ **Feedback provided**
- ☐ **Forwarded to**
- ☐ **Needs change [please specify]**
- ☐ **Withdrawn**
- ☐ **Overtaken by events**

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15 March 2023

Minister of Transport, Hon Michael Wood

Northern Corridor Improvements Project – State Highway 1 Shared Path Opening Event

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about the Northern Corridor Improvements (NCI), including the Shared Path project, prior to the opening event on Friday, 14 April 2023 from 09:30am to 10:30am.

Project funding and costs

2. The total cost of the NCI project is approximately $1 billion with most of the funding made available from the National Land Transport Fund.

3. This cost includes preliminary works, purchase of property, state highway upgrades, including the completion of the Western Ring Route, Northern Busway extension, shared use paths, three community sports facilities and community space upgrades.

4. Additional scope was added to the project by Watercare and Auckland Transport, which provided a funding contribution of approximately $46m and $65m respectively.

Project features

5. Key features of the State Highway 1 (SH1) shared path include:

   - Approximately 6km of 3m wide continuous shared path extending from Constellation Station to Oteha Valley Road.

   - Local connections have been built at Constellation Station, Arrenway Reserve, Greville Road, Tirohanga Whānui, McClymonts Road, Lavender Garden Lane and Oteha Valley Road, which provide access to places of work, transport hubs or residential areas.

   - Local connections include ramp and stair access, ensuring accessibility for a wide range of users from people travelling on foot, bike, scooter, wheelchair or pushing prams.

   - Arrenway Reserve, which features as one of the access points for the shared path, was upgraded in collaboration with the Upper Harbour Local Board to include native planting, bench seating and bike parking; helping to create a community place and space for people to enjoy.

   - An urban design narrative has been developed in partnership with mana whenua and features along the length of the shared path via designs on concrete panels, in addition to a pou whenua and panels adorning one of McClymonts Road bridge piers, to tell the cultural history of the area. Information boards at four locations across the project area share further information on the project, urban design and cultural history of the area.

   - Benches feature at locations along the shared path to enable users to stop and rest before continuing their journey. Wayfinding signage features along the shared path to help people on their journey.

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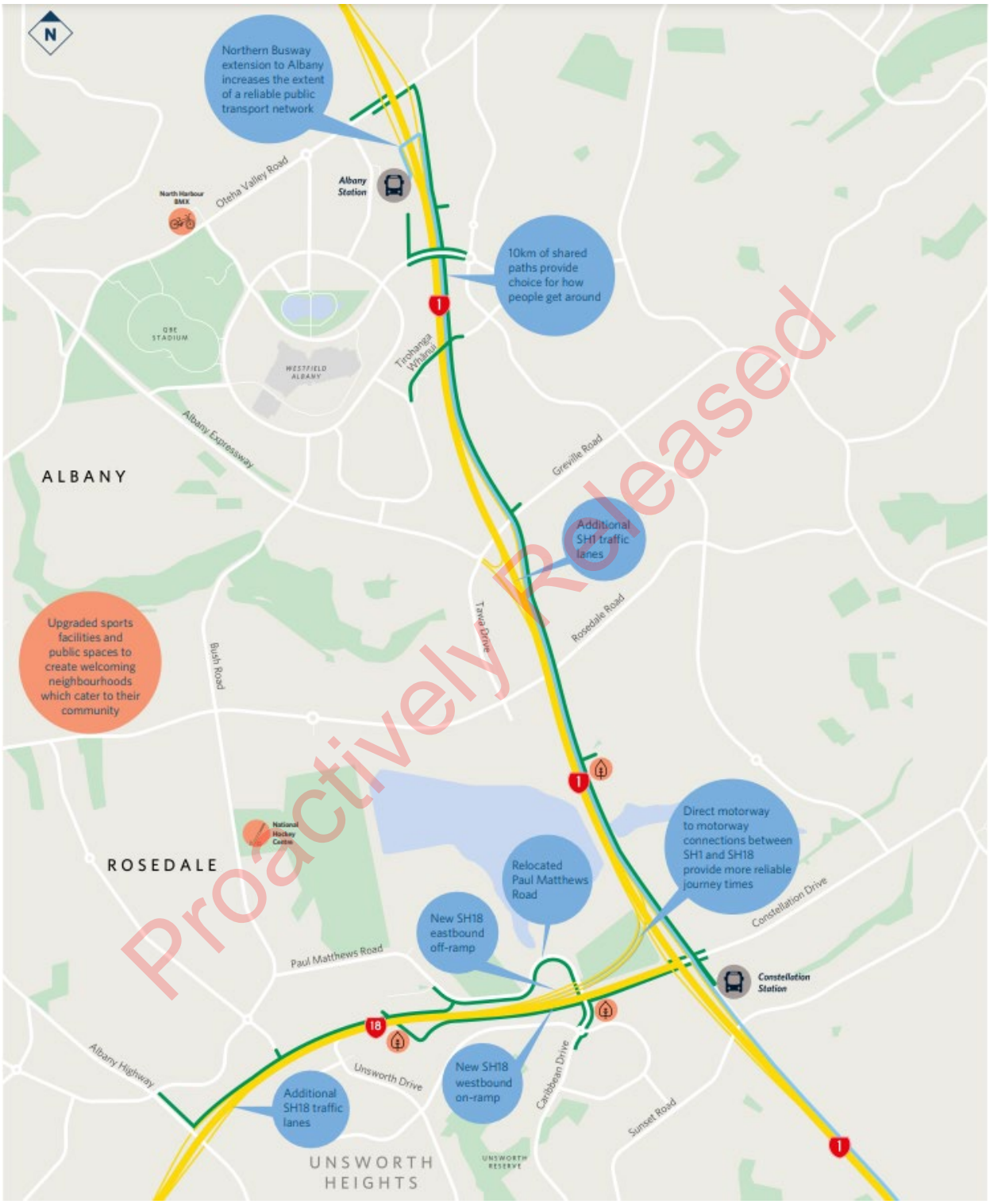
The graphic below shows the overall project location and key features:



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6. Key features of the NCI project include:

- Completion of the Western Ring Route via a direct SH1 to SH18 underpass connection and a direct SH18 to SH1 motorway connection.

- Approximately 10km of shared paths along SH1 and SH18.
- Additional lanes on SH1, between Oteha Valley Road and Constellation Drive.
- Upgraded SH18 westbound onramp.
- Approximately 5km extension of the Northern Busway to Albany, including an upgraded Constellation Station with a new northbound platform. These opened in May 2022, and you attended the opening event.
- Three new community sports facilities (North Harbour BMX, National Hockey Centre and Wainoni Park Pony Club) were opened during 2018 and 2019.
- Upgrade of three community spaces – Rook Reserve, Arrenway Reserve and Meadowood Reserve.

Project benefits

7. Key benefits of the NCI project include:

- Provides a reliable journey time for people travelling through the area with direct motorway to motorway connections between SH1 and SH18.
- Improves the resilience of the Auckland state highway network for people and goods travelling through the area, to the airport and wider regions.
- Supports people being able to leave their cars at home and travel around their local community on foot or by bike.
- Makes travel via public transport faster, more appealing and reliable with the extension of the Northern Busway to Albany.
- Create a welcoming and appealing community to live and travel through with an urban design created in partnership with mana whenua.

Project context

8. The NCI project provides a suite of transport upgrades on the North Shore, including the completion of the Western Ring Route (WRR). An improved public transport network and more walking and cycling connections will help locals have greater choice for how they travel around their community, while SH1 and SH18 upgrades will provide reliable journey times for the movement of people and goods around the Auckland region.

9. The shared path, which runs adjacent to SH1, extends from Constellation Station to Oteha Valley Road and includes local connections at Arrenway Reserve, Greville Road, Tirohanga Whānui (walking and cycling bridge across SH1), McClymonts Road and Lavender Garden Lane. These connections provide access to a range of both residential and industrial areas.

10. The shared path has been designed to reflect access for all and includes features such as stair and ramp access to support people travelling on foot, bike, scooter, wheelchair or pushing a pram.

11. In addition to the Puhoi to Warkworth and Penlink projects, the NCI project is one of several key transport upgrades on the North Shore which will benefit communities today and in the future.

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Key messages

12. Key messages include:

- Well-planned integrated transport investment delivers social, economic and environmental benefits. It helps communities thrive and safely connects people with jobs, schools, essential services and recreation.

- The NCI project will provide a suite of transport upgrades on the North Shore including state highway upgrades, extending the public transport network and a range of shared paths with local connections.

- Reducing emissions is a high priority for the government and New Zealand needs to transition to a low-carbon transport system.

- With population numbers increasing, changing our transport mix in cities to provide more choice is an important part of this. A world-class city provides travel choice for how people get around, which improves their overall quality of life and shows how we can make Auckland a world-class city.

- State highway upgrades is one piece of our investment in safer transport to support New Zealand's Road to Zero strategy.

- This strategy sets us on a path to achieve a New Zealand where everyone can get to where they are going safely.

Other matters

13. Originally scheduled for completion in mid-2022, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed completion to mid-2023.

14. The community and stakeholders have been supportive of the projects and the benefits which it will deliver to those travelling around and through the local area. People keen to travel on foot, bike and scooter have been eagerly waiting for the shared path to be open.

15. In addition to the current project scope, NCI project also undertook design work for the proposed Rosedale Station and the upgrade of Rosedale Road, between Tawa Drive and Triton Drive, on behalf of Auckland Transport.

16. Following an invitation to tender for construction of these projects, and the higher than budgeted costs expected for delivery, Auckland Transport made the decision themselves not to proceed with delivery by the NCI project and have chosen to deliver these upgrades through their standard delivery process.

17. The NCI project team is undertaking work to ensure the site is safe and secure for members of the public travelling along Rosedale Road as well as transfer all necessary design documents from Waka Kotahi to Auckland Transport so that this work can continue at a time when Auckland Transport have appointed the successful delivery partner.

Ministerial event details

18. A karakia will be led by our mana whenua partners prior to the opening event.

19. The event will be located on the SH1 shared path at Arrenway Reserve, Rosedale, North Shore, Auckland.

20. Speeches and a media opportunity will take place.

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Key attendees to acknowledge

21. The key attendees invited to the NCI Shared Path and Completion event include the following:

- Deputy Mayor of Auckland, Desley Simpson
- Ward Councillors and Local Board
- Waka Kotahi board members
- Nicole Rosie, Waka Kotahi Chief Executive
- Waka Kotahi team and representatives of the NCI project

Media

22. We expect some media interest. Invitations will be sent to NZ Herald, Stuff, Newshub and other national publications.

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing.

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Steve Mutton,

Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau

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Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

Date: 2023

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