Over the next three years, a record $3.9 billion will be invested in public transport through the National Land Transport Programme, which includes $468 million for rapid transit projects and $376 million in transitional rail.

This is an increase of $1.9 billion on the previous three years.

$2.6 billion will be invested from the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF), supported by co-investment from local government of $1.2 billion and $90.7 million of additional Crown funding.

This new investment will be focused in Auckland and Wellington, where large-scale and reliable public transport is essential to supporting forecast growth.

Investment in public transport is expected to grow public transport patronage by 11 percent over the next three years to 175 million passengers annually.

Rapid transit and rail investments over the next 10 years will support forecast growth, unlock housing development opportunities, improve efficiency and reliability for commuters and freight, and minimise any increase to the number of vehicles on our roads.

This investment includes:

- supporting the ongoing maintenance and operation of the public transport bus fleet across the country
- expanding public transport networks so more people can connect with each other and access jobs, education, recreational opportunities and essential services
- increasing the frequency of public transport services
- establishing additional bus lanes to improve safety and reduce travel times
- improving the quality and accessibility of infrastructure including bus stops and stations
- delivering several new interchanges, bus priority lanes and expanded park-and-ride facilities in Auckland
- supporting the National Ticketing Programme to deliver an integrated ticketing network stretching the length and breadth of New Zealand
- investing in the Auckland Manukau Eastern Transport Initiative (AMETI) Eastern Busway improvements
- investing in new electric trains for Auckland to provide for growth and reduce the potential for crowding
- a third main line to Wiri to enable express services on the southern line and electrification to Pukekohe, to accommodate growth, improve efficiency and provide better separation of passenger and freight services
• progressive improvement and removal of level crossings in Auckland to better manage safety risks, allow for more train services and reduce road congestion

• renewing large sections of the Wellington to Kapiti, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa passenger rail network nearing the end of their economic life to maintain service levels and improve the safety and resilience of the network

• upgrading track and tunnels to improve resilience and operational reliability

• investing in additional rolling stock in Auckland to increase the number and length of trains operating during peak periods to ensure passengers have reliable access to the employment, education, healthcare, and recreation opportunities that allow the region to thrive

• exploring an inter-regional rail commuter service between Hamilton and Auckland to provide a viable alternative for commuters

• refurbishing or replacing rolling stock to support the existing Capital Connection service between Wellington and Palmerston North

• access to Auckland Airport and surrounding areas will be improved through the Southwest Gateway programme. This work includes Puhinui rail station improvements, investigation of rapid transit measures between Auckland Airport and Botany, and identifying improvements along state highways 20, 20A and 20B to improve journey reliability and provide more transport choices

• extending Auckland’s Northern Busway to the Albany park and ride and supporting the extension of the Eastern Busway, to unlock housing development opportunities and provide a critical connection for these suburbs

• beginning the establishment of a dedicated light rail corridor from Auckland CBD to Auckland International Airport to provide high-capacity and reliable access to two of New Zealand’s largest employment areas, supporting business, growth and tourism

• progressing work on a further rapid transit corridor in Auckland to improve access to the growing northwestern suburbs.