In early September there will be work day and night inside the tunnel to prepare it for opening to traffic on 7 November. The work involves laying the final road surface.

It will start Thursday 1 September and continue through to Monday morning 5 September. Crews will work 24 hours a day in shifts. Vehicles will go to and from the tunnel via the exit portal at the Fanshawe Street on ramp.

While every effort will be made to minimise any disruption from this work for local residents, we ask for your patience as we make this push towards completion of the tunnel’s fit-out.

Franklin/Victoria switch delayed

The work to switch the intersection of Victoria Street West and Franklin Road to its final alignment has been delayed.

The switch had been programmed for this coming Sunday, 28 August. It was to have included rephrasing of the traffic lights, including lights for a new pedestrian crossing from the bottom of Franklin Road to Victoria Park.

Unfortunately the software needed to operate the lights is not ready. We are therefore delaying the switch until the following Sunday, 4 September.

However paving required on Franklin Road, next to the Rob Roy Hotel, will go ahead this Sunday, 28 August. Franklin Road will be closed below Scotland Street from 7.30am until work is completed, at approximately 1 – 2pm.

As usual, access to the New World carpark and residences in lower Franklin Road will stay open.

What’s happening next weekend (3 - 5 September)?

Union Street will be closed over the weekend to continue the work to rebuild the street as shared vehicle and pedestrian space. This will improve the connection under the viaduct between the new Rob Roy Plaza and the Victoria Park Market.

Union Street will be closed from Saturday morning (3 September) until Monday morning (5 September). Work will involve paving and shifting the road alignment. As much of the work as possible will be done during the day. However there will be activity at the bottom of the street on Sunday night as part of the intersection realignment.

Also as part of the intersection realignment Franklin Road will be closed below Scotland Street from Sunday morning through to early Monday.

Victoria Street will close between Beaumont and Halsey streets overnight on Sunday 4 September. The closure will be from 9pm until 5am on Monday morning. This work is weather dependent. Rain could delay it.

Tunnel excavation finished

The bulk excavation for the tunnel approach and entrance was completed this week. This has reduced the number of heavy trucks on local roads.

Also: drainage work and gantry installations on the motorway, advised in our last Construction Update, were completed last night.

Orakei main Sewer works

Work to enliven the new sewer line across the roof of the tunnel is starting on 7 September behind Franklin Mews. This is day and night work, programmed to avoid high tides and the peak sewage flows. There will be no work on Friday and Saturday nights.

If preparations cannot be completed in time, the work will start on 12 September.