

# Newsletter

Auckland Manukau Eastern Transport Initiative. AMETI

### Whats Inside?

- Mountain Road bridge replacement
- Panmure transport upgrades

MARCH 2012

## Work underway on major east Auckland transport project

Construction is now underway in Panmure on one of Auckland's biggest transport projects, the long awaited Auckland Manukau Eastern Transport Initiative (AMETI).



Mayor Len Brown helped start construction of the \$180 million first phase in Panmure recently. It is part of a longer term plan to deal with traffic congestion and poor transport options in Auckland's south east.

A new road cutting ten minutes off the journey time between Glen Innes and Mt Wellington will open in 2014 as part of the first phase. The Mayor marked the start of construction of the Auckland Transport project on the site near Panmure Station in late February with main contractor Fletcher Construction, Auckland Transport and the NZ Transport Agency.

The first phase of the project is expected to employ up to 300 people at its peak and have economic spin-offs, with much of Fletcher's \$100m construction contract spent with local industries.

"AMETI is the next big transport initiative we are launching to stop the gridlock and unleash the potential of all of Auckland," says Len Brown.

Auckland Transport Major Projects Manager

Rick Walden says the construction shows major improvements to transport problems are on their way for eastern suburbs residents and businesses.

"For example, the new road will take 20,000 vehicles, including 2400 trucks, off the route through Jellicoe Rd, Panmure roundabout and Ellerslie Panmure Highway. It will provide a quicker and better connection for freight and business traffic.

"This is a really important project for Fletcher and we are delighted to continue delivering major transport improvements for Aucklanders" says Fletcher Building Construction Group Chief Executive, Graham Darlow.

NZTA's Regional Director, Stephen Town, says the commencement of major works in the eastern suburbs of Auckland is long overdue and the Agency is delighted to be co-investing in this critical transport corridor.

\*See inside for more details on the transport upgrades

## Update: Pakuranga to Botany Busway information day

On Saturday 14 April from 10am to 2pm Auckland Transport will be holding a public information day with updates on the planned busway in Pakuranga.

This will show the preferred alignment for the busway and likely timing for its construction. The information day will also include other updates on the AMETI project.

It will be held at Te Tuhi Centre for Arts, 13 Reeves Rd, Pakuranga.

More information on the South Eastern urban Busway is inside.

## Traffic changes

*Speeds are restricted to 30km and lanes reduced from three to two on the section of Ellerslie-Panmure Highway between the roundabout and Mt Wellington Highway until the end of the year.*

The traffic changes are necessary to allow construction of a new bridge at Panmure Station next to the existing Ellerslie-Panmure Highway bridge. Drivers are asked to be patient and consider alternative routes at peak times.

Mountain Rd bridge remains closed at present. Businesses are still open and can be accessed.

There have also been some recent overnight lane closures on Ellerslie-Panmure Highway. When further traffic changes are necessary we will advise people with electronic signs, public notices and on the Auckland Transport website.

# From the Project Director



Peter King,  
AMETI Project Manager

*It has been an extremely busy few months for the AMETI project since our last newsletter.*

Here are some of the areas we have made good progress on recently to improve transport in the area:

- Demolished the old Mountain Rd bridge and made good progress on its replacement
- Held a public information day in Panmure where 200-250 found out more about the project
- Awarded a \$100 million contract for construction in Panmure to Fletcher Construction
- Started the main Panmure construction with Mayor Len Brown on a digger to start work
- Reached the final stages of confirming the alignment of a Busway from Panmure to Pakuranga and Botany
- Began investigating options for transport improvements in the Mt Wellington area,

including connections with a future east-west link to Onehunga.

The construction in Panmure is going to be highly visible during the next couple of years and there will be some disruptions as we work on improvements to the transport system.

However, when complete journey times between Mt Wellington and Glen Innes will be quicker. Traffic congestion will also be reduced through Panmure and the roundabout.

I encourage you to join us at the next public information day in Pakuranga on 14 April. We will be sharing some exciting plans for a Busway that will dramatically improve public transport in the area.

Sincerely

**Peter King**

## Stay up to date

*Auckland Transport is committed to keeping the community up to date on the AMETI project. We are also aiming to get the balance right between making progress on construction and minimising the impacts.*

Auckland Transport has a Stakeholder Management Specialist, Greg Horne, who is focused on working with directly affected properties and others in the area who may be impacted by the project. For any issues related to construction please contact Greg at [Greg.Horne@aucklandtransport.govt.nz](mailto:Greg.Horne@aucklandtransport.govt.nz) or on 09 355 3553. A regular Project Update newsletter is distributed to the area around the construction works.

If you would like to be on a distribution list for email updates on the project please send an email to [Daryl.McIntosh@aucklandtransport.govt.nz](mailto:Daryl.McIntosh@aucklandtransport.govt.nz) with AMETI newsletter in the subject line.

The Auckland Transport website will also have regular updates on the project at [www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz/ameti](http://www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz/ameti).

## Mountain Road bridge replacement

*The new Mountain Road bridge will be complete in July.*

The old bridge was demolished on Boxing Day while the rail network was closed. Work since then has included creating foundations for the new bridge, creating retaining walls for approaches to the bridge and placing beams. Each of the beams is 28m long and weighs 42 tonnes.

The new bridge will be higher and longer to allow for electrification of the rail network and the new AMETI road.

Work is also being done to re-align the road to meet Jellicoe Road.



# Panmure transport upgrades 2012 -2014

Continuing until 2014, the first phase of AMETI in Panmure is Auckland Transport's largest construction project and includes:

- A new bridge built on Ellerslie Panmure Highway for a future busway and the existing bridge replaced. The bridges will be higher and longer to allow for rail electrification, a new road and a possible future third rail line to pass underneath.
- A 1.5km new road linking Morrin Rd to Mt Wellington Highway and a 220m tunnel for the new road built next to the rail line at Panmure Station. This will be created by building a box with a new road on top for buses and taxis to stop at the station.
- A major upgrade of Panmure Station to

create an interchange that allows easy transfers between trains and buses

- Replacing the Mountain Rd bridge and realigning the road.

Completing this phase of construction will reduce traffic so work can begin on a new intersection to replace Panmure roundabout and an urban Busway from Panmure Station to Pakuranga and Botany. The AMETI Busway is expected to have 5.5 million passengers a year, compared to the current 2.2 million using the Northern Busway.

## Walking and cycling improvements

- Cycle lanes in both directions on Ellerslie Panmure Highway from Mt Wellington Highway to Queens Rd
- Cycle lanes in both directions along the new AMETI road, which will also have cycle lanes in

both directions and an off-road shared use path for walking and cycling

- Replacement of the footbridge between William Harvey Place and Ireland Rd with a wider, longer bridge with ramps for disabled access.

## Environmental improvements

Environmental improvements are being planned across the project, with Van Damm's Lagoon and a new wetlands feature key areas of focus. These are part an integrated approach to improving stormwater management and water quality in the area. It will have benefits for local ecology and provide enhanced reserve areas for the community. There will also be planting along the new road, including boulevard style large trees.



# AMETI link road (North)



# AMETI link road (South)



## Construction timing

- A** Mountain Road Bridge  
- Replacement and road realignment
- B** Tunnel for new road  
- Station road built on top
- C** Panmure Station upgrade  
- New bus / rail interchange
- D** New busway bridge and replacement of Ellerslie Panmure Highway bridge
- E** New AMETI link road
- F** Van Damm's Lagoon and storm water improvements
- G** Panmure roundabout upgraded to intersection
- H** Lagoon Drive  
- Busway and two-lane road
- I** New Panmure bridge  
- For busway, cycling and walking

- Construction start December 2011
- PHASE ONE Construction start February 2012
- PHASE ONE Construction start February 2013
- PHASE TWO Construction start 2014

# South Eastern Urban Busway



*An urban busway between Panmure Station, Pakuranga and Botany is a key part of improving transport choices in the area.*



Low numbers use public transport because buses get caught in congestion, resulting in long travel times. The busway would cut journey times by public transport significantly and ease pressure on congestion.

The south eastern busway is expected to have 5.5 million passengers a year, compared to the current 2.2 million using the Northern Busway.

The busway is designed to give buses a separate right of way so they don't get caught in congestion. This will improve journey times and reliability, as well as allowing a higher frequency of buses to operate. It will have high quality bus stops, with intersections designed to provide improved connections and safety for pedestrians.

The first stage will be between Panmure Station and Pakuranga town centre. Construction will begin no earlier than 2015, a confirmed date will depend on funding and consent approvals.

It will include:

- A two directional busway from Panmure Station that runs along the north side of Lagoon Drive
- Bus stops along Lagoon Drive
- A new Panmure Bridge north of the existing bridge for the busway, cyclists and pedestrians.
- A two directional busway on the north side of Pakuranga Rd from the Panmure Bridge to Ti Rakau Dr
- A bus station at Pakuranga Town Centre, parallel to Ti Rakau Dr, that provides a single stop for buses from Pakuranga Rd and Ti Rakau Dr
- A Reeves Rd flyover reducing congestion through Pakuranga.

The second stage of the busway from Pakuranga town centre to Botany will be in the centre of Ti Rakau Dr from Reeves Rd to Botany Town Centre.

# About the AMETI transport projects

The Auckland Manukau Eastern Transport Initiative (AMETI) is a group of transport projects for the south east (Panmure, Mt Wellington, Sylvia Park, Pakuranga, Howick and Botany).

The aim is to give people living in the area transport choices by improving public transport, walking and cycling facilities and reducing traffic congestion. Other major aims are to create jobs by unlocking the economic potential of the area, improve transport for freight and business traffic and to promote good urban design.

The AMETI area has some of the highest traffic flows, highest proportions of freight traffic and greatest levels of congestion, anywhere in the country. Public transport is a poor option because buses get caught in congestion, resulting in long travel times. It also has some of the worst conditions for walking and cycling in Auckland.

The two bridges across the Tamaki River carry more than 120,000 vehicles a day, more than State Highway One through Victoria Park. They also have more freight traffic than any other corridor in the country.

The population is also expected to grow by 20-25,000 during the next 20 years, further increasing pressure on the transport system.

AMETI projects are spread across a number of years, meaning they are at various stages of development – from construction in Panmure to concept or design stage for others. The overall strategy is to:

- Get more people onto public transport to free up roads for freight and business traffic
- Focus roading improvements on key congestion points like Panmure town centre and the Ti Rakau Drive/Reeves Rd/south eastern highway intersection
- Focus local journeys and public transport on the Panmure Bridge route. Waipuna Bridge and the south eastern highway to become the primary route for through traffic to Auckland central and freight/business traffic

The NZ Transport Agency and Auckland Council are major funders of AMETI.

