

MIN-3780 Progress on reallocation of Northern Pathway funding

22 December 2021

You have requested an update on the progress of projects using funding reallocated from the Northern Pathway project.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

Northern Pathway

- Since the Government announcement not to proceed with the standalone bridge component of the Northern Pathway project, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has closed down and consolidated the work done by the Northern Pathway Alliance.
- Waka Kotahi is currently working with its partners and key stakeholders to identify an alternative option for walking and cycling across the Waitematā Harbour. A shortlist of options has now been identified, which have considered the previous landward component of the Northern Pathway and an extended area of the Waitematā, to include existing ferry terminals. These include a dedicated bus or ferry for cyclists, as well as reviewing previous work done around reallocating existing lanes on Auckland Harbour Bridge to ensure we have not missed anything that would make this option viable in the future.
- While the permanent conversion of lanes on the bridge has been ruled out by the Waka Kotahi Board, the work we are doing now on how best to better provide for active modes across the Waitematā Harbour will ensure that our recommendation to the Board has considered all plausible options. For example if demand management was introduced reducing current motor vehicle demand, as well as ways for other network, safety and operational challenges to be mitigated.
- A preferred option will be presented to the Minister in March 2022.

Eastern Busway

- Waka Kotahi has been working with Auckland Transport (AT) on the reallocation of the Northern Pathway funding, which has included seeking confirmation of the funding requirements for the Eastern Busway.

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Remaining Funding

- We have had preliminary discussions with Auckland Council and across Waka Kotahi to identify projects that may meet the remaining criteria for receiving funds re-allocated from the Northern Pathway. At this time, with high levels of uncertainty as to the re-allocated funds available – we have deferred prioritising potential projects until there is greater certainty of the funding envelope, which should occur in early 2022.

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