



Benefits/challenges of protecting transport corridors using an integrated approach

With multiple multi-billion-dollar mass rapid transit projects on the cards for Auckland, the controversial issue of route protection continues to hit the headlines.

The Waitematā Harbour Connections and North West Rapid Transit projects are now being scoped. CRL, Eastern Busway, Auckland Light Rail and the 80-project-strong Te Tupu Ngātahi programme of work are all already underway across Tāmaki Makaurau.

Most of these projects require some form of land acquisition.

Waka Kotahi and Auckland Transport's first ever alliance, Te Tupu Ngātahi is the largest infrastructure planning undertaking in NZ's history. For the last six years, this alliance has been identifying and protecting transport corridors to sustainably support Auckland's future growth areas.

The work is being done in close collaboration with Auckland Council, Manawhenua and KiwiRail to ensure it integrates with the land use and future development and creates high quality and more compact future communities that have greater access to active and public transport options.

This shared approach is designed to deliver urban outcomes that build place and minimise movement.

It's vital for economic and social certainty that growth is carefully planned for well in advance of the infrastructure being needed. As outlined in the recent Infrastructure NZ report, protecting transport corridors early provides certainty to communities, developers, utility and infrastructure providers, and businesses and allows them to make informed decisions about the future.

The significant nature of this work, because of the impact it will have on Auckland's economic and social future and the cost to rate and tax payers, means it can't be meaningfully progressed without elected member support and public participation.

This all-women panel will discuss the benefits and challenges of protecting transport corridors using an integrated approach, outline why it has to be the way of the future and how public support is critical to its success.