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Intense construction over Christmas and New Year

We are planning an intense three-week construction programme in Newmarket over the Christmas/New Year holiday between December 26 to January 18 2009. We are taking advantage of this time to carry out work that can only be done when there are no trains running.

We have a lot to do in a short time so will be working extended hours on most days and have teams travelling to Auckland from around the country. We will also be working

through the night with some activities so we can get the work finished in time to reopen the rail network to commuter services on Monday 19 January 2009.

Please note no trains run on Christmas Day, and comprehensive rail-bus replacement timetable is operating from Boxing Day to Sunday 18 January. This allows us to get the job done. Always check with MAXX before you travel online at www.maxx.co.nz or by calling 09 366 6400.

Mayor Banks starts Khyber Pass Rd rail bridge demolition

ONTRACK enlisted the help of Auckland City's mayor, John Banks to mark the start of a key element of its Project DART upgrade of Auckland's rail network. Duplication of the western line is now underway between Newmarket and Boston Rd. This involves replacing the busy Khyber Pass Rd and Park Rd rail to accommodate a second track, new rail station and overhead wires for future electrification.

The works have been carefully planned to take place concurrently to minimise traffic disruption by shortening the overall duration. The railway line beneath the bridges opened in 1881 and linked the existing North South Line with the North Auckland line already been built further west. Largely unchanged today, the single track runs through a narrow cutting between the two bridges hewn out of volcanic basalt.

After the holiday network shutdown a temporary one will open 50m away from the existing one - this is to enable building of the new station. Several hundred piles are also being installed to line the wider cutting and allow lowering of the tracks.

Construction of the Newmarket station continues works to replace Remuera Rd Bridge are expected to start in January 2009.



Onehunga track lay complete

Renewal of Onehunga branch-line track is almost complete - with just ballasting and tamping remaining. Signal design is being progressed, and ONTRACK is working closely with ARTA on plans for future station(s) along the route.

Manukau rail link planning progresses

Design for a 1km rail spur linking Manukau city centre to the main network is underway. ONTRACK is working closely with the local council and the Auckland Regional Transport Authority to develop the best fit solution. The new line, the first new section of track in Auckland for several years, will run along the northern side of SH20.

Preparation for electrification moves ahead

Identification of suitable contractors to undertake planning for the signals, traction and bridge work is underway. It is expected that the signals work will start early in the New Year.



