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New Lynn rail trench - the big dig is coming

The construction of New Lynn's rail trench is moving fast, with the second trench wall well on its way.

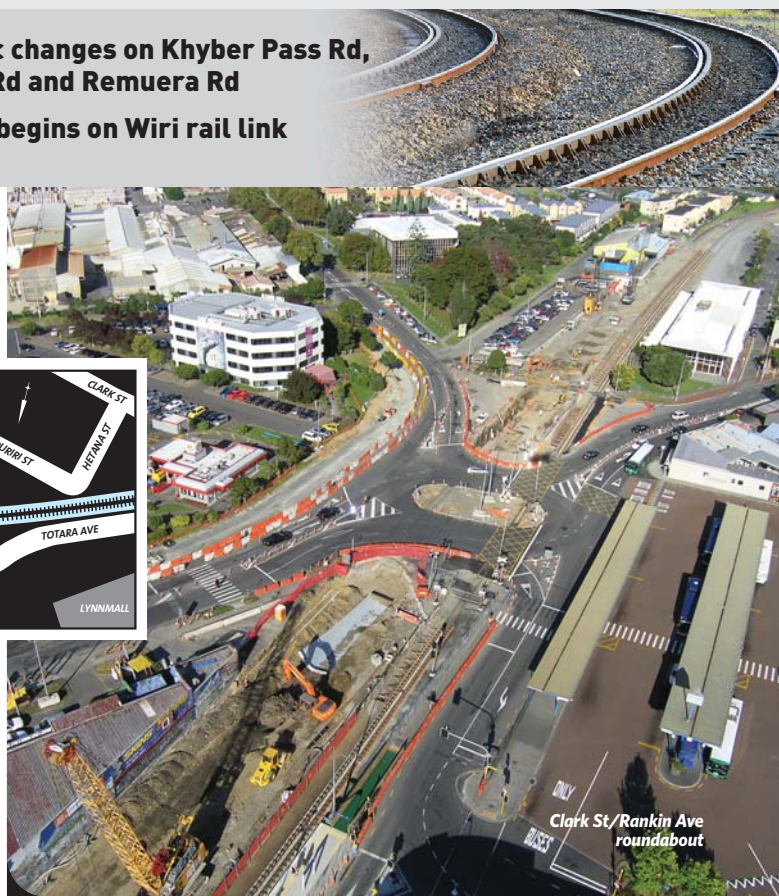
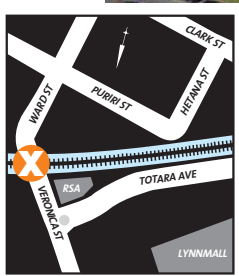
The level crossing at Ward and Veronica Sts is closed for up to 12 weeks while we continue building the southern trench wall and a new rail overbridge. All businesses will still be accessible so please keep supporting them while we carry out this upgrade.

Up at the Clark St/Rankin Ave intersection, we have been building the trench wall and rail overbridge at the location of the old roundabout. Around the beginning of August, traffic will shift from the temporary roundabout back to its old location so we can complete the second trench wall.

Traffic lights will replace the old roundabout, and cars will be traveling across the new bridge, which will stay flush with the ground until the trench is dug out from underneath it.

We will be excavating small areas of the trench progressively over the next few weeks, and the "big dig", when thousands of cubic metres of clay and dirt will be excavated from the ground, will be in full swing by July.

Over two weekends in late March and early May the track was shifted onto the completed northern wall. The second of the two new bridges at Whau Creek was commissioned in early May and trains are now running on it.



The dirt on the New Lynn dig

We will excavate 85,000m³, or 140,000 tonnes, of clay. Most of the excavated clay will go to Puketutu Island which is the closest cleanfill with the necessary capacity.

Avondale double tracking progresses

The second of two new rail bridges at Whau Creek is now in use after the track was moved onto it in early May. This means the length of track from Whau Creek to New Lynn is now situated a few metres further north so that work can continue on the southern trench wall.

We have also installed the second track through the level crossings at Chalmers St and St Georges Rd, and the next step will be to link the two. We are upgrading both level crossings to accommodate the second track, and will shortly begin constructing the new platforms at the future Avondale Station.

When the second track is laid through New Lynn next year it will mark the final stage of the Western Line double-tracking project, which began in 2006.





Bridge construction shifts in Newmarket

Excellent progress is being made with the replacement of three rail overbridges in the Newmarket and Grafton areas.

The rail overbridges at Remuera Road, Khyber Pass Road and Park Road are being rebuilt to achieve the necessary clearances for future electric trains, and improved access to ARTA's redeveloped stations.

At Newmarket station, the Remuera Road bridge has been demolished on the western side and work is now underway to construct the new deck. The new bridge beams are being installed around the end of June and about a month later construction will shift to the eastern side of the bridge.

The project is due for completion in November and the second stage will mean changes to the way traffic moves through the area.

At Newmarket Junction the concrete slab for the track to connect Newmarket and the west is finished and the final pieces of rail are being laid. The connection will be commissioned in time for the opening of ARTA's new station in January.

The foundation pads for the new, eastern-most station platform are underway and piling for the retaining wall that will support the third track is also ongoing.

The first stage of the replacement of the Khyber Pass Road overbridge is complete, and construction has shifted to the middle of the bridge. Traffic is now moving smoothly on either side of the construction zone, as the middle third of the bridge is removed and rebuilt.

Stage one of Park Rd is nearly complete and the new bridge beams for the western half of the bridge are now in place. Construction will soon move to the western half of the bridge, meaning changes to the way traffic moves through the area.

Piling is progressing well on the retaining wall that will allow the cutting beneath Khyber Pass and Park Rds to be widened for a second track.

Traffic changes in Newmarket

Khyber Pass Rd

The construction zone recently shifted to the middle of the bridge with the completion of the western lanes. There are two north-bound lanes open on the rebuilt western side and the single south-bound lane on the eastern side of the bridge will remain. The bus stop on Khyber Pass Rd will be closed for the duration of the work and there is no right turn into or out of Huntly Ave.

Park Rd

When construction on Park Rd shifts to the western side of the bridge around the end of June, there will still be one lane of traffic each way on the bridge, but this time on the half of the bridge closest to the Lion Nathan site.

Remuera Rd

Around the end of July, construction on Remuera Rd will shift to the western side of the rail overbridge. This means traffic will flow on the side of the road closest to Bike Barn, Basko's and Dick Smith. There will still be one lane either way, with a signalled right-turn into Middleton Road and a safe crossing point for pedestrians.

Work begins on Wiri rail link

Work has officially started on construction of a rail exchange at Ports of Auckland's Wiri Inland Port in South Auckland. Minister of Transport Steven Joyce was on hand to turn the first sod of a project that, once fully operational, is forecast to save up to 100,000 truck trips per year. Jointly funded by KiwiRail and Ports of Auckland, the exchange will connect the 15 hectare Wiri Inland Port with the national rail network and provide a direct link to the Waitemata seaport.

The Wiri Inland Port is strategically located off Wiri Station Road in South Auckland, close to Auckland International Airport, and adjacent to SH1 and SH20. The works involve construction of three rail sidings, each capable of taking 22 wagons, a 450m long hardstand (heavy duty pavement) and around 2,000m of track. Construction is due to be completed by the end of the year.



Find out more

You can find out more about the project from our website
www.ProjectDART.org.nz
 emailing us
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