

- ▶ **Newmarket Station and Remuera Rd bridge near completion**
- ▶ **Grafton Station and Newmarket Western Line**
- ▶ **New Lynn Rail Trench**
- ▶ **Avondale Station**
- ▶ **Manukau Rail Link**
- ▶ **Onehunga Branch Line**
- ▶ **Work ahead**

Newmarket Station and Remuera Rd bridge

Work is rapidly nearing completion on the replacement of the Remuera Rd rail overbridge and on Newmarket Station. By the end of November the station building will be mostly complete and the adjacent bridge will be finished. At the end of July construction shifted from the northern side of the bridge to the southern side. Piling on that section of the bridge is now complete and the bridge abutments and capping beams are under construction. The new bridge beams - a key part of the replacement works - will be lifted into place in October and finishing works will take place through to the end of November, which is the project's scheduled completion date.

The interior of the station building is progressing quickly. The roof is complete and much of the interior can now be seen from Station Square. The escalators and lift shafts are in place and the canopy on the western platform is complete. Finishing works are underway on the eastern platform and all of this work will clear the way for the third track through Newmarket Junction to be laid at Christmas, ahead of the station opening in January.

Grafton Station and Newmarket Western Line

The replacement of the Khyber Pass and Park Rd rail overbridges continues steadily, making way for double-tracking beneath. The third and final phase of the Khyber Pass Rd bridge reconstruction is underway, with traffic now moving on three lanes on the completed two-thirds of the bridge. The reconstruction of the bridge is scheduled to be completed in March.

On Park Rd, the new bridge beams for the second phase of construction - the western half of the bridge - are in place, and the project is on track to be completed at the end of November. The retaining walls for the second track will be complete in November, and major earthworks are planned within the rail corridor at Labour Weekend, when no trains will be running on the Western Line, to prepare for the second track.

This section of rail, between the current Boston Rd station and Kingdon St in Newmarket, is the penultimate stage of the Western Line Duplication Project. The second track will be laid beneath Khyber Pass and Park Rds during the Christmas and New Year period, by which time construction on ARTA's new Grafton Station will be in full swing.



New Lynn Rail Trench

The "big dig" is well underway in New Lynn, with three quarters of the excavation of the rail trench complete. The final piece of the southern trench wall is under construction and the bridges that will replace the level crossing at Clark St/Rankin Ave and Ward St/Veronica St are in place.

Excavation is advancing towards both intersections and the ground underneath Clark/Rankin will be dug out at Labour Weekend. New bridges at Memorial Dr and Hetana St are also now underway and will be completed by the end of 2010.

The track that is currently running along the top of the finished northern trench wall is scheduled to be lowered into the trench around April 2010. A temporary station will be in place inside the trench as construction continues on the Auckland Regional Transport Authority's new, permanent station.

The second track will be laid inside the trench in mid-2010, completing the Western Line Duplication Project. The opening of the new station later in the year marks the completion of the New Lynn rail upgrade.





Avondale level crossing

Avondale Station

Work has intensified in recent weeks on the new station at Avondale, with retaining walls to support the new platforms now well underway. Construction of the station platforms will continue until the end of the year, including a new stormwater pipe on Crayford St West. Significant improvements are also being made to level crossings in the area. Work to double-track and upgrade the Chalmers St level crossing was completed in June and St Jude St is next on the list. Intensive activity will take place there at Labour Weekend, and we will be working 24 hours a day to lay the second track and upgrade the road around it. St Georges Rd will follow during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

The new station at Avondale will open in June 2010, at the same time as the new station at New Lynn.



Manukau City Mayor Len Brown, Transport Minister Steven Joyce and KiwiRail Chairman Jim Bolger at an event to mark the start of construction on the Manukau Rail Link.

Manukau Rail Link

Construction has started on the formation for the Manukau Rail Link, the first new rail route built in Auckland since the Eastern Line in 1930.

Transport Minister Steven Joyce joined KiwiRail, Manukau City Council and the Auckland Regional Transport Authority in mid-September to officially mark the start of construction.

The rail link will be approximately 2 kms long, connecting with Auckland's Southern Line at Puhinui and extending to Davies Ave in Manukau. It is expected to be one of the country's busiest stations, competing with Newmarket for the second-highest number of passengers after Britomart.

The rail trench which will house the station will be 300m long, 7m deep at its deepest point and 18m wide at its widest. Enabling works are complete and the rail infrastructure is scheduled to be finished in mid-2010, ahead of the station opening and start of passenger rail services in 2011.

Onehunga Branch Line

The rehabilitation of the Onehunga line is largely complete and earthworks for the first of the new stations are underway. The Auckland Regional Transport Authority has finalised the location of three new stations at Penrose, Te Papapa and Onehunga so that passenger rail services can resume in 2010 after a 37-year absence. Rail services ceased in Onehunga in 1973 after a century of operations. There will also be significant work to upgrade eight road and pedestrian level crossings, and new signals laid along the line.

Work on rehabilitating the existing single line began in October 2007, and the section between O'Rorke Rd and Galway St is complete. This saw a new formation and drainage installed and new sleepers and rail laid along the line. The rehabilitation of the line also provides an opportunity for freight services to resume, and one rail siding has already been rebuilt.



Onehunga

Work ahead

The long weekends and summer holidays ahead represent some of the best opportunities of the year to complete a significant amount of work across Auckland's rail network.

At Labour Weekend, the construction teams in Newmarket, Avondale and New Lynn will be working extended hours on vital pieces of work to keep the projects running to schedule.

At Khyber Pass and Park Rds there will be activity 24 hours a day to carry out major earthworks in preparation for the second track.

From December 26 2009 until January 18 2010 there will be no trains running on most of Auckland's rail network. There will be lots of activity on the existing rail upgrades, and the start of work for electrification. In many areas across Auckland, bridge and track works are required in order to achieve the necessary clearances for electric trains. KiwiRail has until 2013 to complete the signaling and traction for electrification.

Find out more

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