



Transit personnel hard at work on Auckland's Harbour

Transit and Opus face off

Transit has fielded their first 11-a-side football team against Opus. Striker Tom Delaney recounts the action packed match.

"Both teams started brightly with Transit fending off numerous attacks by Opus while Paul Demain and Roberta Robles controlled the defence. Unfortunately, 15 minutes into the first half Transit's fitness (or lack thereof) started to show and allowed the Opus team to score a number of goals that even goal keeper Patrick Kelly could not defend.

"However, one of Transit's better moves ended in disaster when our midfielder, Mish Iwaskow, was roughly slide tackled,



Gez Johns attempts a goal, but unfortunately cannot break the strong Opus defence

injuring his leg. Our hardy captain tried to 'jog off' the injury, which appeared to be no more than a rolled ankle but was eventually forced to retire to the sideline. X-rays would later confirmed that Mish had in fact broken his leg!

"Unfortunately when the final whistle blew, the goals scored by Paul Demain could not resurrect Transit from a 10-3 loss," says Tom.

Congratulations to all Transit players on a brilliant effort, and especially to Mark Walker, Levin Shome and Rick Galli who played their first full game of "soccer".

Hundreds turn out for Waterview Connection community days

Around 500 hundred people took advantage of community days for the Waterview Connection project in March and April.

Two open days at the Owairaka Primary School and Waterview Methodist Church attracted a steady stream of people interested in the project which proposes building a tunnel to connect SH20 at Mt Roskill to the Northwestern Motorway (SH16) at Waterview.

Principal project manager, Clive Fuhr, says the community days were a chance for anyone interested to find out more, meet the project staff and talk to other technical experts.

"People came to see the project models, numerous posters explaining aspects of the proposal and talk to engineers and other specialists in tunnelling, property rights or design elements," Clive says.

"We chose two local venues so that people most affected by the project could get to the community open days.



Locals take a closer look at plans for the Waterview Connection Project

In addition to the Owairaka and Waterview venues, the project team ran a stall at the Avondale markets one Sunday morning for seven hours attracting around a hundred people. It was a good opportunity for the team to target a different audience within the local community at a popular event.

Comments closed on Friday 11 April and more than 700 were received. An overview of the comments was presented to the Transit Board in May.



HIWAYS AND BYWAYS

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Dawn breaks on new harbour crossing

Transport Minister Annette King joined Transit and key stakeholders to turn the first sod in a ceremony on Wednesday 9 April, marking the beginning of construction of one of the most strategic transport projects in the Auckland region - the State Highway 20 Manukau Harbour Crossing.

Associate Minister of Transport Judith Tizard also attended together with Manukau City Councillor Alf Filipaina and Transit Board member James Hill. Also present to celebrate were local iwi representatives of Puukaki Te Aakitai who blessed the project.

The project will see a new duplicate four-lane motorway bridge constructed over the Manukau Harbour between Onehunga and Mangere Bridge, alongside the original bridge built in 1983. Together, the new and existing bridges will each feature four lanes and bus shoulder lanes north towards Onehunga and south towards Mangere. As part of the upgrade, SH20 will be widened to six lanes with bus shoulder lanes between Queenstown Road and Walmsley Road.

The new and existing bridges will add much needed capacity for motorists travelling across the Manukau Harbour. Together they will accommodate the 160,000 vehicles which are expected daily to use the new crossing by 2021.

Dedicated bus shoulder lanes will feature in each direction along the route, as well as new pedestrian and cyclist footbridges and a shared path stretching along the Waterfront Reserve in Mangere Bridge. Provision will also



Manukau City Councillor Alf Filipaina, Transit Board member James Hill, Associate Transport Minister Judith Tizard and Transport Minister Annette King turn the first sods to mark the start of construction.

be made for a future rail link running under both bridges, to connect to ARTA's proposed rail link to Auckland International Airport.

Transit is also working closely with ARTA to future proof the alignment on the southern side including shifting the motorway to the east between Mangere Bridge and Walmsley Road, to make room for a future rail link.

Transit Regional Manager Peter Spies says the beginning of construction is a big step forward in improving access between the south and central Auckland region.



Eru Thompson of Puukaki Te Aakitai blesses the project

Summer sailing stirs up some friendly competition

On a warm February evening a group of 20 Transit staff took the opportunity to race several former America Cup boats along with Land Transport NZ staff.

The harbour race was hosted by Chapman Tripp and the course started from the Viaduct Harbour basin, went across to the Chelsea Sugar Works before changing to North Head, with a final run back up the harbour to Chelsea.

The yachts were NZ40 and NZ41, two survivors of the early New Zealand campaign.

With great enthusiasm, crew members worked the boats at the top end of their racing capability.

Most took alternate shifts of the grinders, working in tandem at the direction of the professional crew onboard, with the sound effects of the carbon fibre hulls adding to the sailing atmosphere.

The two and a half hour sail was the perfect outing to take advantage of the summer weather.

There was an undoubted air of competition between the two boats as they raced at a speed of 12 knots on the inner harbour. However, according to crewman Mal Moir, "We also managed to pose for photos when the pressure got too much."



The strengthening upgrade will help the bridge meet the demands of the growing Auckland region

Strengthening work begins on Auckland Harbour Bridge

Preparatory work is underway to strengthen and upgrade the two Auckland Harbour Bridge box girders (clip-ons) in a \$45 million project.

The main strengthening work will start in July this year and will take approximately two and a half years to complete with teams working around the clock.

The upgrade includes welding and bolting over 700 tonnes of additional steel to the clip-ons in time for the Rugby World Cup

in 2011 when thousands of rugby fans will be using the bridge to travel to and from North Harbour Stadium.

The strengthening will help the bridge stay in good condition for the next 20 to 30 years and will not preclude walking and cycling options currently under consideration with regional partners.

Work started in April this year to improve access, ventilation, lighting and power supply for the welders and other

construction workers who will carry out the upgrade of the box girders.

One of the most strategically important bridges in New Zealand, the Auckland Harbour Bridge is also one of the best maintained bridges in the world. The 49 year old bridge is no stranger to upgrades and facelifts. In the last eight years alone, Transit has undertaken annual, six and three month inspections together with daily monitoring, painting and other maintenance at a cost of \$3 million a year.



Members of Transit and HEB Construction with the proposed design for the new SH18 motorway. From L to R (standing) Muir Coup (Opus), Bruce Pulman (HEB), Colin Crampton and Mark Johnson (Transit); (sitting) Derrick Adams (HEB), Rachel Kirk (Transit)

Design of new SH18 underway

Designs for the new SH18 Hobsonville Deviation are being finalised in preparation to make a start on construction. This follows the signing of a \$163 million contract with HEB Construction.

The 6 km, 4-lane motorway is the third and final section of the new SH18 between Albany and Westgate and follows the recent completion of the duplicate Upper Harbour Bridge and Greenhithe Deviation.

This major piece of Auckland's transport network includes a 2.2 km, 2-lane extension of SH16 to Brigham Creek, which will also have provision for widening to four lanes in the future.

Project manager Rachel Kirk says "The new motorway and links will create extra capacity for the growing numbers of motorists travelling from developing areas in Waitakere City and Kumeu South in Rodney District."

The project, which forms the northern section of the Western Ring Route, is expected to be completed in 2012.

The SH18 Greenhithe Deviation and Upper Harbour Bridge projects that opened last year are already relieving congestion on Upper Harbour Drive.

Support for Auckland projects during consultation process

Earlier this year, Transit released its consultation document and invited councils, key stakeholders and the public to make submissions on the proposed projects for each region.

More than 140 submissions were received from Cape Reinga to Invercargill and everywhere in between.

The Auckland region received submissions from councils and stakeholders such as the Auckland City Council, Rodney and Franklin District Councils, Auckland Business Forum and the Auckland

International Airport. Their support was noted for several large projects that currently appear within the plan.

Several submitters requested to voice their opinions to panel members Peter Spies and Martin Fletcher during the public hearings that were held in the first week of April.

"We appreciate and encourage input from people around the country to help us deliver on projects," says Peter.

Outcomes of the submissions process and public hearings will be included in the 2008/09 10-year State Highway Plan and Forecast.

New Appointments

JAMES CRITCHLEY recently started as a member of the desktop support team in Transit's Auckland office.

He brings his experience from a similar position at the National Health Service in the UK where he worked in the IT department for eight years.

James moved to New Zealand from Watlington in South Oxfordshire. He enjoys most outdoor activities but spends most of his spare time scuba diving.

NITA CHHAGEN has joined Transit as a resource planner.

Nita comes to this position after working as a resource management planner for seven years at Manukau City Council. Her new position involves reviewing land use and subdivision applications received by Transit against relevant statutory documents and planning legislation. In her previous position Nita was involved in the SH20 - 1 project.

Nita has a Bachelor of Science and a Masters in Planning Practice from the University of Auckland.

She also has a 16-month old son who keeps her very busy outside of work.

TRISTAN GIELEN is starting his career at Transit as a graduate resource planner.

He processes resource consent applications and reviews proposals to develop land that could affect the state highway network.

Born and bred on the North Shore, Tristan graduated from the University of Auckland in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Geography.

In his spare time he enjoys surf casting, tramping, kayaking and also reading.



Tristan Gielen and Prasad Metla

PRASAD METLA has joined Transit as a Project Manager.

His new position involves preparing programmes and monitoring the progress of large block projects.

Prasad holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Madras in India and over the last ten years has gained valuable experience in design, construction and management.

He enjoys playing sport in his spare time and organising social events.

MICHAEL TING recently joined the Auckland office as a graduate engineer.

He previously worked for network operations in Wellington. His new position involves cost analysis for the Waterview Connection project and monitoring project progress.

He graduated from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Engineering and is currently studying for his Masters in transportation part-time. Throughout his study Michael worked for the Waitakere City Council and several Malaysian Government departments.

In his free time he is a keen basketball player and enjoys fundraising and giving back to the community.



L to R: Michael Ting, Nita Chhagen and James Critchley

Cape progress is picture perfect

Last month Transit and the Department of Conservation invited all budding artists from five schools on the Aupouri Peninsula to create a picture illustrating why Cape Reinga is so special to them.

Project Manager Howard Marshall says, "This competition has been a great way to involve local schools in the project. More than 100 pictures were entered in the competition making it a great success."

Representatives of Transit and DOC judged the final pictures. The winners will participate in a special planting ceremony at the Cape in June. This will mark the start of revegetation at the Cape for both Transit and DOC. A plaque with the names of each student and their school will be placed near the planting.

The SH1 Cape Reinga to Waitiki Landing project will see the last 19 km of SH1 sealed and widened, eliminating dust clouds, sharp corners and potholes. This will make driving conditions safer and more enjoyable for the thousands of visitors to the Cape each year. Up to 6.5 km of the road has been levelled and widened with sealing about to begin.

A team effort from the junior class at Te Kao School. L to R: William Nelesini, Naomi Lavemai, Nalani Karena, Alysia Sinclair. 2nd row: Manahuia Nathan, Nikayla Nelesini, Wharewaka Wiperi, Troy Tepania. Front row: Mia Nelesini and Verity Rameka

