

20 December 2021

Kia ora,

We are pleased to announce that construction on Queen Street will begin on the 10th of January and be completed by September 2022. The later start date has been agreed to give Queen Street retailers, hospitality, residents, visitors and shoppers an optimum Christmas and New Year period, unimpeded by construction, after what has been a really challenging time with COVID-19 restrictions.

This work will improve Queen Street for people by shaping a more vibrant, user-friendly street environment that people want to spend time in. This work has been informed by the local Queen Street community, who we have been engaging with since the beginning of this project. To find out more about this design and the project please visit [AK Have Your Say - Wai Horotiu Queen Street](#).

John Fillmore Contracting Limited (JFC) will be carrying out this streetscape work with us. JFC are experienced in the delivery of complex streetscape projects in the city centre and carried out the work earlier in the year between Shortland Street and Customs Street.

The construction is largely above-ground, with some bigger machinery used to remove the raised median bar between Wellesley and Wakefield Streets. We will begin work in zone 5 (between Wellesley Street and Mayoral Drive), starting on the western side of the street and then moving to the eastern side. We will then progress north, into zone 3 and 4 using the same approach.

Low level fencing will be used to maintain sight lines throughout the street. The fencing will be around the work zones which will be located on the outer edge of the footpath and carriageway, preserving pedestrian space and easy access to shops, homes, businesses, and laneways throughout construction.

A Stakeholder Liaison Manager, Cherie Armer, has been appointed by JFC and liaise with and assist local businesses and community members during the project. You can contact her on cherie.armer@jfc ltd.co.nz or 021 420 108.

Below is a summary of the main works happening in each section and when. However, we will provide you with more detailed information at each stage. To stay updated on this work please email queenstpilot@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and we will add you to our mailing list.

Summary of construction work (indicative timeline):

Zone 5 (Mayoral Drive – Wellesley Street), January - July

- Remove the raised median strip and resurface the road between Wellesley Street and Aotea Square. This will allow us to reconfigure the traffic lane arrangement and create more footpath space. We will commence this work in January when traffic is still light in the city centre. This work will take two weeks and will require us to close the two inside traffic lanes, however, we will manage the traffic to ensure access is maintained throughout.
- The multi-use path will be extended up to Aotea Square on the western side of the street, giving those on wheels a safer way to travel through Queen Street.
- The footpath will be repaved on each side of the street.

Zone 3 (Victoria St – Shortland St), April – August

- We will start on the western side of the street and fill in the loading zone outside 151 Queen Street with paved stone to give more quality footpath space to pedestrians. This loading zone will be shifted around the corner onto Wyndham Street.

- Along the eastern side of zone 3 we will be converting two lanes of traffic into an expanded footpath; giving all people on foot and on wheels designated spaces to ensure they co-exist safely. This will require us to operate a stop-go lane closure while we install the new kerb, this work will be done during off peak times between 9am and 3pm.
- The existing crossing point will be repaved, in zone 3 between late March and early April. The work will take approximately two weeks. This will include the use of heavy machinery to demolish the existing road surface. Vehicle access will be maintained around our works.

Zone 4 (Wellesley St – Victoria St), May – September

- Work on the western side of zone 4 will begin while the eastern side of zone 3 is being completed. We will be filling in one loading zone with paved stone on the western side to give more quality footpath space to pedestrians.
- We will be repaving the existing crossing point in zone 4 in May to create a safer crossing area for people on foot and wheels, and to slow traffic down. This work will take two weeks and will require the same machinery and traffic management as in zone 3.
- Along the eastern side of zone 4 the same expanded footpath will be constructed as in zone

Work happening across all zones:

- To get precision with the paving sizes, pavers will need to be cut on site throughout construction. To minimise the noise disruption, we will create designated cutting zones where we can set up cutting booths that will absorb some of the noise and will be run by silenced generators.
- The new design for Queen Street will require some changes to loading zones, including filling in one, expanding or moving others. The overall loading space on Queen Street will remain similar to what it is now.
- During construction some loading zones may be temporarily unavailable at certain times. Where possible they will be relocated, or we will point businesses to an alternative loading zone along the street.
- The footpath on both sides of the street will be repaved, enhancing the look of the area and the quality of the footpath. When this takes place (it will take place zone by zone) bus stops will need to be temporarily relocated. Signage will be up at bus shelters to point passengers in the direction of their new stop and AT Journey Planner will have up to date information.
- Once the work is complete in each section, we will be installing steel planters filled with a variety of native plants. These will bring a distinctly green feel to the street and add textural variety to the streetscape through the diversity of plants and steel planters used. This work will need to be done with a hi-ab truck, which will involve a lane closure for the truck to operate. To minimise disruption to peak traffic flows, the works will be undertaken at night when traffic volumes are lower, under a stop-go operation to maintain two-way access around the works. This work won't be noisy.
- Several buildings on Queen Street have emergency evacuation sites on the street. Access for this purpose will remain, however, should you have any questions, please contact the team to facilitate a meeting with Fire & Emergency NZ.

We will keep you informed of this work as we go through our regular updates. To sign up for these please contact queenstpilot@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz More information regarding the final design and plans can be found online: <https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waihorotiu-queen-street>
We look forward to speaking with you more on this project next year. Have a very happy holiday season.

Ngā mihi,
Wai Horotiu Queen Street Project Team