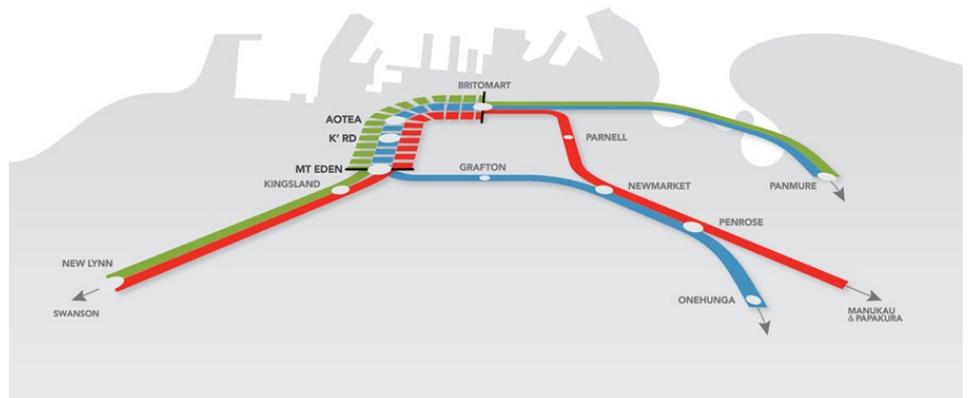




Overview of the project



BENEFITS

The City Rail Link will improve access into Auckland's city centre and double the capacity of Auckland's rail passenger network.

The objectives of the project are to:

- provide services for ongoing growth in demand for travel into the city centre
- address the current bottleneck with train services into the dead-end Britomart rail station
- provide for more frequent services and shorter travel times across the Auckland rail network
- encourage significant commercial property developments in the city centre.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City Rail Link is a 3.4km double-track underground rail line that will turn Britomart into a through station, and link it to two new central city stations (near Aotea Square and Karangahape Road). The new line will connect to a redeveloped Mount Eden station where it will rise to the surface to meet the existing Western line.

BACKGROUND

Auckland's city centre is the largest and fastest growing centre in New Zealand and has the potential to unlock significant economic growth and productivity for the country.

To reach this potential, improvements in transport access are needed – both to provide for forecast growth in demand for travel and facilitate ongoing development of the city centre.

As an end of line station, Britomart is constrained in the number of train services it is able to accommodate at peak times. This constraint will inhibit the rail network's ability to provide for future passenger growth.

There has been significant growth in rail patronage in recent years, as a result of the Government's \$1.7 billion upgrade of the Auckland metro rail network, including Government and Auckland Council investment in new trains. Patronage for the 12 months to November 2015 was just over 15 million, an increase of around 22% from the previous 12 months.

The Government and Auckland Council have agreed that the City Rail Link will be the key new transport project to provide additional capacity for travel into the city centre.

COSTS

Estimated at around \$2.5 billion.

FUNDING SOURCE

This project will be funded by the Crown and Auckland Council. The Government will be working with Auckland Council to agree on a joint business plan later this year that will set out both parties' roles, including respective funding shares.

DATES

Auckland Council started construction of the enabling works for the project in December 2015.

Construction of the project's main works could start in 2018, at least two years sooner than currently envisaged, with the full City Rail Link completed by 2023/24.