

Eden Park Bus Stop Changes

Community Feedback and Decisions Report

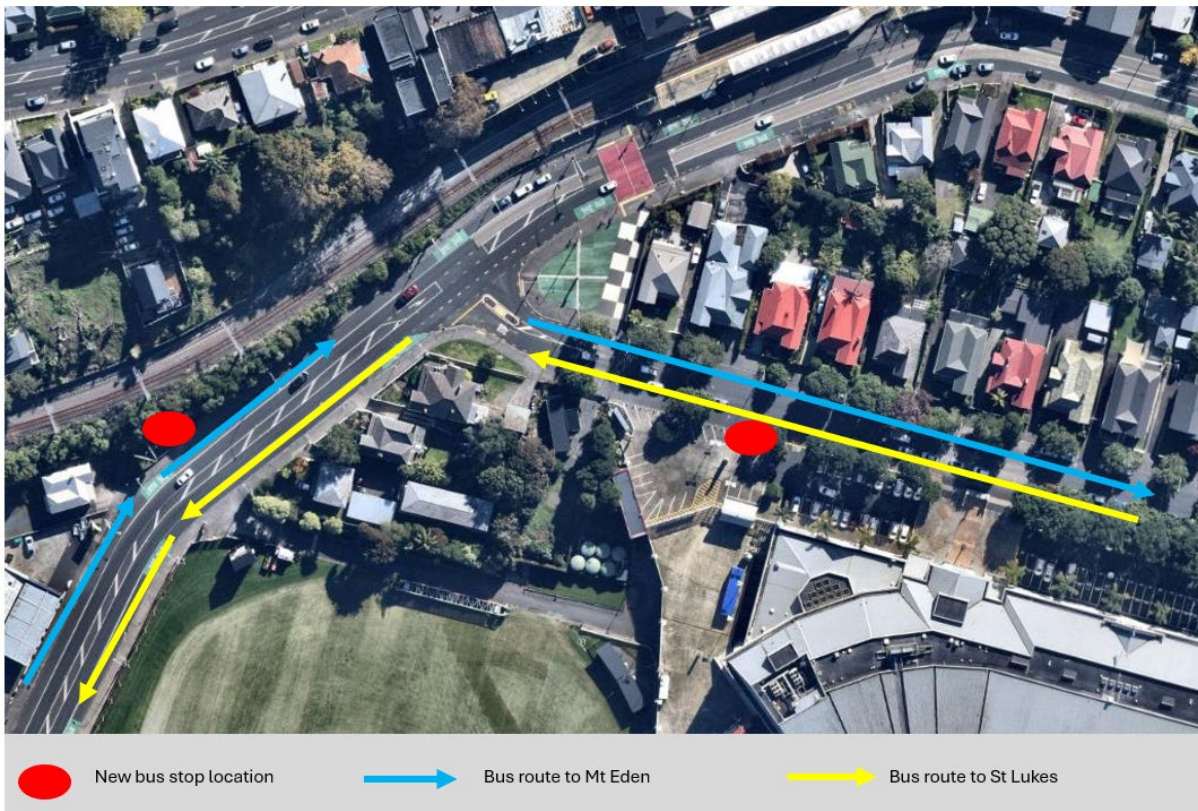
29 October 2024

Overview

From Monday 19 August to Sunday 15 September 2024, Auckland Transport (AT) consulted on proposed new bus stops near Eden Park to support changes to the 64 bus service being introduced in November 2024. From 17 November, route 64 will be extended to run all the way to St Lukes via Sandringham Road. This will create a new connection between St Lukes, Kingsland, Mount Eden and Newmarket.

We proposed and consulted on:

- A new bus stop on the southern side of Walters Avenue at the Sandringham Road end for people to use the bus to get to and from the train station and Kowhai Intermediate.
- Another stop will be added on the western side of Sandringham Road just south of the Walters Road intersection for buses travelling from St Lukes.





The consultation included 200 letters delivered to nearby residents, a drop-in session on 5 September at the nearby Kingsland Methodist community hall and workshops with the Albert-Eden Local Board throughout the consultation period.

The consultation was further promoted in a neighbourhood Facebook group. Local residents also delivered their own letter to some nearby households encouraging them to respond to the consultation.

We received 11 online submission responses as well as feedback from the Albert-Eden Local Board.

The majority of people told us the change would not benefit the community, particularly in concern to the bus route along Walters Road. We also heard some concerns of the proposal and some alternative suggestions.

Of the online consultation survey, 64% told us the proposal will not provide a benefit to the community and shared their concerns about the proposal. 27% told us the proposal would benefit the community. 90% also provided suggestions to improve the proposal.

Why we are proposing it

Aucklanders want a better public transport system that is convenient, well-connected, accessible and reliable. Auckland Transport (AT) is on a mission to:

- Increase public transport use to reduce congestion
- Improve access for Aucklanders
- Support the economy and enhance the environment.

Buses can move more people while using less space and new frequent bus services will make St Lukes, Newmarket, Mt Eden, Kingsland Station and other destinations easier to get to and more accessible.

With the extension of route 64 being to St Lukes via Sandringham Road it is no longer required to turn buses around at Kingsland. Rather than continuing to run the bus on Onslow Road unnecessarily, we will run it on Walters Road in both directions because this creates a shorter and more direct route and it is more intuitive to run it on the same street in both directions for ease of use.

Because the 64 bus will then no longer go past the existing bus stop outside Kingsland Station new bus stops are needed so people can get on and off the bus within easy walking distance of the station.

We had considered installing both the bus stops on Walters Road but believe this would be too disruptive to the residents of the houses on the north side of the street.

The location on Sandringham Road, while it is in a bus lane, will provide relatively close access to Kingsland Station without needing to cross any roads.



A similar bus stop on the Eden Park side of Sandringham Road would need to be located sufficiently south of the Walters Rd intersection to enable safe stopping with good visibility around a bending road. This was considered unnecessarily far from Kingsland Station, especially with the inclined walk from this potential bus stop to the station.

Benefits & Impacts

- Bus stops to get people to and from Kingsland: these bus stops are near Kingsland Station, Kingsland shops, Kowhai Intermediate and other bus services.
- The bus stops are in front of Eden Park and railway land, not residential houses.
- The removal of on-street parking space for about five vehicles at each location to create the bus stops.

What we asked:

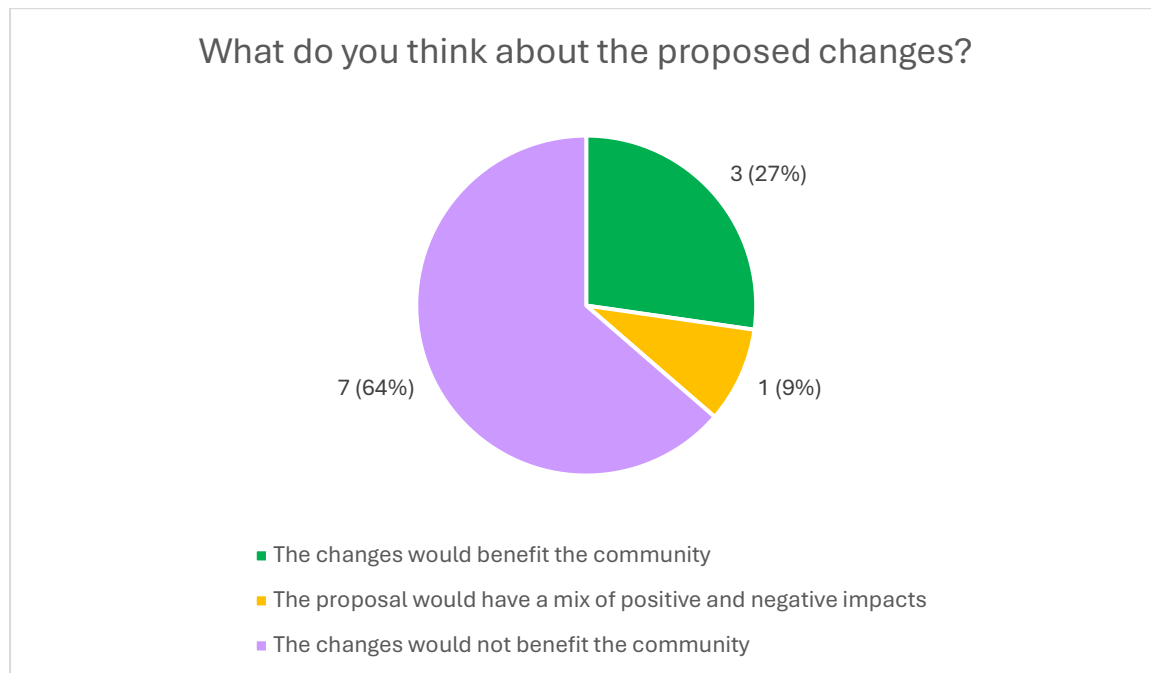
- What do you think of these plans?
- Have we got the locations right?
- Have we missed anything?

Decisions

- The 64 bus route will be removed from Walters Road in conjunction with the opening of Maungawhau Station. In the meantime, the bus will travel on Walters Road and Sandringham Road starting 17 November 2024. When the City Rail Link and Maungawhau Station opens the 64 route will move to Dominion Road instead of Walters Rd and Sandringham Rd.
- Temporary bus stops on Walters Road and Sandringham Road will be built as in the proposal. They will be removed when the 64 bus route is removed from Walters Rd and Sandringham Road.
- It was proposed by AT that this route via Walters Road and Sandringham Road will be on a trial basis and will be reviewed after monitoring how people's travel patterns change following the opening of Maungawhau Station. A consultation on the bus route would take place within 18 months of the station opening to better understand the needs and views of people about this bus route. With the decision to remove the 64 bus route from Walters Road and Sandringham Road in conjunction with the opening of Maungawhau Station this review and consultation will no longer happen.

Feedback overview

The majority of respondents told us that the change would not benefit the community.



The majority of concerns of the proposal related to buses running both ways on Walters Road. Respondents had concerns over the bus route running on Walters Road making it difficult for parking, traffic, noise and overall road safety.

We asked for suggestions to improve the proposal. Most suggestions related to removing the bus route off Walters Road entirely and using a different route however we also received suggestions for alternative locations for the bus stops that we have considered. This includes suggestions to use the existing Papa's Pizza bus stop further south of the station as well a suggestion to get closer to the train station.

What we heard from the respondents

We heard from 11 individual community respondents,

Eden Park management was also informed of the proposal. They said they would support the views of the neighbours and had no formal feedback to provide although suggested we put both bus stops on Sandringham Road.

The majority of the responses were from people who live or own property in the area and other responses included people who visit shops and businesses, visit friends, and travel here to use the train or buses in the area.



Common themes in the feedback

What people felt positive about

- “Safer for tamariki”
- “Good to add the stop for the Kowhai Intermediate school users.”
- “It make bus to train transfer”

The changes people suggested

Community Suggestions	AT responses
I have observed the bus 64 patronage over the past 2 years along Walters and Onslow Roads and they buses are empty on this route! How can you justify keeping this service let alone increasing the frequency. Not a great use of public money and public transport priorities. The new train connection at Maungawhau Station will make this route redundant.	<p>Patronage on the 64 bus service varies from 1100-1200 (weekdays) and 600-850 per day (weekends), with 162 people typically boarding or alighting the service at Kingsland on weekdays.</p> <p>In respect to empty buses, with a few exceptions, buses are never at their busiest at the beginning or end of a route, therefore buses may be empty or have fewer patrons when running on Walters Road. Demand for buses also changes throughout the day and on different days.</p> <p>The 64 bus service will be removed from Walters Rd in conjunction with Maungawhau Station opening.</p>
Don't do it and listen to your local board who have already offered alternative solutions which I understand have been ignored	<p>The 64 bus service will be removed from Walters Rd in conjunction with Maungawhau Station opening.</p>
Use the existing bus-stop at Papas Pizza avoids unnecessary duplication. I make no comment on the proposed stop on Walters Road save as to say it will take up local and commuter parking. The route under consideration was a short-term route for the period of construction of the CRL. That is finishing so trains and passengers can use Mt Eden stadium. Please return us to pre CRL status quo.	<p>The existing bus stop outside Papas Pizza is being investigated further to minimize additional infrastructure.</p> <p>Approximately five car spaces are proposed to be temporarily removed from Walters Road to install the bus stop. We have minimised parking loss by using existing yellow lines. By providing this bus route, AT hopes to encourage people to use the bus to get to the train station, reducing the need for on-street parking while Maungawhau Station is closed.</p> <p>The 64 bus service will be removed from Walters Rd in conjunction with Maungawhau Station opening.</p>
Keep this street as public parking street	<p>Approximately five car spaces are proposed to be temporarily removed from Walters Road. We have minimised parking loss by</p>



	<p>using existing yellow lines. By providing this bus route, AT hopes to encourage people to use the bus to get to Kingsland Station to reduce the need for on-street parking while Maungawhau Station is closed.</p> <p>The 64 bus service will be removed from Walters Road and Sandringham Road in conjunction with Maungawhau Station opening.</p>
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What people felt concerned about

Community Suggestions	AT responses
Walters Road is a residential street and is not suitable for 2-way bus traffic.	Walters Road is wide enough for buses to run two ways. The 64 bus service will be removed from Walters Road and Sandringham Road in conjunction with Maungawhau Station opening.
The safety of residents exiting driveways, children from Kowhai School and, parents of children at Best Start Kindergarten will be compromised with a two-way route along Walters Rd.	<p>There are many other roads in Auckland where buses travel two ways on roads of similar design and width as Walters Road, with similar public amenities including schools, day care/kindergarten providers. There is no increased risk for Walters Road compared to similar roads in Auckland.</p> <p>The 64 bus service will be removed from Walters Rd in conjunction with Maungawhau Station opening.</p>
The Northbound bus-stop duplicates one that is beside Papas Pizzas on the south side of the Altham Ave/Sandringham intersection. The proposed bus stop is not needed. If put in place it will mean busses using the stop will need to cross a northbound lane to turn right into Walters Road. The route under consideration was a short-term route for the period of construction of the CRL. That is finishing so trains and passengers can use Mt Eden stadium.	<p>Papa's Pizza is considered too far away from Kingsland Station to be suitable for connections with trains.</p> <p>For route 64 the additional stop on Sandringham Road provides an important connection for people using Kingsland Station to travel further east towards Mt Eden village. To enable short efficient connections for public transport users, including those people with accessibility needs who rely on public transport, means we need a bus stop as close to the station as possible.</p>



Stakeholder feedback

We asked feedback from 3 key stakeholders:

- Albert-Eden Local Board
- Eden Park
- Kowhai Intermediate School

Albert-Eden Local Board	AT responses
Use the existing bus stop outside Papa's Pizza and don't build a new one.	For route 64 the additional stop on Sandringham Road provides an important connection for people using Kingsland Station to travel further east towards Mt Eden village. To enable short efficient connections for public transport users including those people with accessibility needs who rely on public transport means we need a stop as close to the station as possible.

Eden Park and Kowhai Intermediate School were provided information about the consultation. No feedback was received.

In addition to the feedback on the bus stops, we received seven letters opposing the bus route changes happening in November. The opposition to the bus changes were due to:

- Noise and vibration
- Loss of parking
- Cost to ratepayers
- Effect on Dominion Road businesses
- Safety for children
- Congestion
- Lack of consultation.

Next Steps

The 64 bus will begin running on both ways on Walters Road and Sandringham Road from Sunday 17 December 2024. It will be removed from these roads in conjunction with the opening of the City Rail Link and Maungawhau Station.

New temporary bus stops will be installed on Walters Road and Sandringham Road before 17 November 2024. They will be removed when the 64 bus is re-routed to Dominion Road.



Thank you

AT seeks to understand and represent members of the community, with consultations about our projects.

We want to thank those who took the time to give feedback on the proposal for the bus stops. These bus stops are designed to support the bus route change being introduced to provide a better public transport service to the community.