



ARTA NEWS

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Public transport hassle-free way to special events

Aucklanders are increasingly using public transport to get to and from special events and entertainment complexes like Vector Arena and Eden Park. To cater for this demand, the Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA) has hired a special events coordinator with wide international experience for such occasions and is working closely with its operators to manage such events.

In the last nine months, ARTA provided tailor-made public transport services for a number of special events, including the Big Day Out, Christmas In The Park, Pasifika, Super 14 games, V8 Supercars, and the Red Hot Chilli Peppers and P!NK concerts.

At last month's match between New Zealand and France at Eden Park, twenty per cent of the 40,000 strong crowd used the bus or train to get to and from the game. For the upcoming Bledisloe Cup, ARTA will provide more trains and buses than for any other previous Eden Park game.

However, providing public transport for events like the Guns N' Roses concert at Vector Arena can pose quite a challenge. Due to Guns N' Roses' notorious late finishes, the trains provided to get concertgoers home after the show were at the latest time ever on record for a special event, with services to Waitakere not reaching their destination until well after 3.00am.

Rail patronage for June was 471,000 and brings the provisional annual patronage for 2006/07 to 5.74 million. This is 14% more passengers than were carried in 2005/06.

A contract for the detailed design and construction management of remodelling the Newmarket station has been awarded to Opus. The design is due to be completed in December 2007, and construction is to start in February 2008. Opus completed the detailed design of the Northern Busway stations.

The 2007 six-month road toll for the Auckland region sits provisionally at 22, which is almost half of what it has been at the same point in the last few years. This is a significant reduction and great news for the region.

New rail station for Sylvia Park

A new rail station at Sylvia Park opened to commuters on Monday 2 July, providing access to New Zealand's newest and biggest retail outlet.

The new station is less than 20 minutes by train from Britomart and just over half an hour from Papakura. Passengers need to make sure they board an Eastern Line service to reach the shopping centre, via the waterfront and Glen Innes, as the Southern Line bypasses it.

Trains stop at the new station at least once every 30 minutes – and more often at peak times.

The new station was funded by the shopping centre's developer, Kiwi Income Property Trust, which also supplied Sylvia Park retailers with 200 free 10-trip train tickets to encourage retail workers to use rail transport.

Now that the station has been built, it will be managed and maintained by ARTA.



:: FOR MORE INFORMATION

Commuter trains for Helensville

The Auckland Regional Council has approved \$450,000 in capital funding to prepare for commuter train services to Helensville, 28 years after they were last run. The funding will be used to develop temporary stations at Huapai and Waimaukau and for a minor upgrade to Helensville station.

A trial is due to begin in mid 2008 and will see one train run in each direction, morning and night, from Monday to Friday for a year. Talks are underway with ONTRACK about improvements to the line before trial commuter services can begin.

In response to strong customer demand, three train sets are on order and due to arrive in the middle of next year. The Auckland rail fleet currently has 31 trains, including 14 refurbished locomotive-hauled SA sets.

Patronage on the Northern Express service was 48,909 in June, which represents a 27% growth on June 2006. Total patronage on the interim busway for all services is 887,845. The 1 million patronage mark is forecast to be hit in August 2007.

New train timetables for the region are now in place and can be downloaded at www.maxx.co.nz

The new timetables capitalise on the extra flexibility from the \$55 million duplication of the Western Line, between Henderson and New Lynn. They include a doubling of week-day peak-time services between Henderson and Britomart to four an hour and more Saturday trains.

Minor construction work is underway at Mt Eden train station and is expected to be completed by mid to late August 2007. The minor maintenance upgrades include: the construction of a new shelter, resurfacing the platform to include safety markings and yellow tactile strips for the visually impaired, platform lighting upgrades, upgrades of CCTV cameras, the public address system and customer safety points, and new wayfinding signage. Train services are continuing to stop at the Mt Eden train station during the construction period.

This latest step is part of the ARC's, ARTA's and ONTRACK's continued expansion and strengthening of Auckland's rail system, which currently reaches as far as Waitakere on the Western Line.

:: FOR MORE INFORMATION

Moving Auckland Forward

ARTA has just released its first Auckland Transport Plan (ATP). The plan is a breakthrough for forward planning and long-term transport investment decisions for the Auckland region.

For the first time, the ATP unites the transport strategies, plans, projects and packages that have been developed by ARTA, Transit New Zealand, ONTRACK and local authorities in a single document.

Key expenditure items for Auckland (2006/07 to 2015/16) include:

- 2,2 billion for the maintenance of local roads
- 2,4 billion for the renewal of local roads
- 2,3 billion for passenger transport services
- 1,6 billion for improvements to passenger transport
- 665 million for travel demand management, walking and cycling.

The 2007/08 Auckland Land Transport Programme (LTP) was released by ARTA at the end of June. The programme outlines Auckland's key passenger transport projects for the coming year. It allocates funding from the Auckland Regional Council, local councils and Land Transport New Zealand in a way that will best meet the region's and central government's transport objectives – decreasing reliance on the private motor vehicle through providing more public transport choices for Aucklanders.

Key Auckland projects for 2007/08 include:

- Central Connector Bus Corridor
- Major roading projects in new development areas, especially Flat Bush, East Tamaki, and Pukekohe
- Mount Wellington Quarry link road
- Auckland Manukau Eastern Transport Initiative
- Upgrading the Downtown Ferry Terminal
- Continued construction of the Northern Busway, which will be opened in early 2008.

:: FOR MORE INFORMATION

20 new-technology vehicles are being added to the Link fleet. More than \$7 million has been spent on the new buses, which meet the latest Euro 5 emission standards, meaning they should cause 70 to 90 per cent less pollution than the existing 1996 fleet of 18 Link vehicles. NZ Bus is also investing heavily in staff training and recruitment to ensure the drivers of the new buses have superior customer service skills and can keep their cool in difficult conditions.



The new buses will have a distinctive new exterior and interior look.



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