

Eastern Busway Pakuranga to Botany

23 May 2022

Summary and outcomes of community meetings held in May 2022.

This is an addendum to the report of community meetings held in March and April 2022



1 Executive summary

The Eastern Busway Alliance hosted two face to face pop-in information days in Burswood on 19 and 21 May 2022. The sessions followed community engagement in November and December 2021 as well as three virtual and one in-person community meetings held in March and April 2022.

This report summarises the purpose, process and outcome of the two May information days and is an addendum to the April report.

Invitations to the pop-in days were widely circulated to Burswood residents and nearby businesses, project partners and stakeholders. Approximately 92 people in total attended the two days.

The main feedback themes from the meetings were consistent with those of the 2021 consultation and early 2022 meetings, and included:

- strong opposition to the proposed alignment through Burswood
- requests to reconsider alternative designs, especially the Ti Rakau Drive alignment that was previously consulted on in 2018, as well as an elevated structure and other options
- distress from affected property owners about losing their homes and potentially being unable to afford an alternative property of a similar standard and location as their existing home
- fears from residents about the potential impacts that the Burswood Station would bring to their small and unique community including impacts on safety, crime and parking
- suspicions and concerns about future urban development in the area and the extent to which this had influenced the recommended Burswood alignment
- requests for a park and ride facility in the area
- concerns around construction impacts
- environmental concerns particularly questions about impacts to the coastal marine area, wetlands, and flora and fauna in the local area
- questions around the decision-making process and when property owners would be given certainty
- questions and improvement suggestions relating to the communication and engagement process and how the alliance informed the community of the sessions.

Attendees' comments have been collated in this report which will be shared with the Auckland Transport (AT) Board ahead of their 26 May 2022 meeting and decision on the preferred design from Ti Rakau Drive Bridge to Botany Town Centre.

The alliance will provide further opportunities for community engagement on the detailed design following the AT Board decision on the overall alignment.

2 Background and process

The Eastern Busway Alliance has been eager to provide in-person opportunities for the East Auckland community to discuss the project and ask questions, and the recent easing of Covid-19 restrictions has enabled that to happen. The alliance held three online and one in-person community meetings in March and April 2022, which have been documented in the 'Eastern Busway community meetings summary April 2022' report.

The alliance held two further in-person community information pop-in sessions at the East City Wesleyan Church in Burswood, on Thursday 19 May 2022 from 3pm to 7pm and on Saturday 21 May 2022 from 10am to 1pm.

The purpose of the sessions was to provide further opportunity for community members, residents, businesses and affected property owners to talk directly with the Eastern Busway Alliance, raise questions and voice concerns. The sessions were designed to facilitate detailed, individual conversations between community members and project team members, enabling people to engage freely, without needing to speak in front of a large group. Each session provided time for detailed conversations in an informal setting with access to maps and visual information, with most attendees staying at least 20 to 30 minutes to talk to the team.

Invitations to the two sessions were widely circulated to Burswood residents and nearby businesses, project partners and stakeholders, using the following methods:

- Mana whenua partners, elected representatives and Howick Local Board members were informed of the sessions in person and by email, and were invited to attend them
- A bilingual invitation flyer (see Appendix) was hand delivered to ~600 residential and commercial properties, including all households in the Burswood Peninsula, and businesses along both sides of Ti Rakau Drive between Greenmount Drive and Trugood Drive
- Invitations were emailed to participants of earlier sessions, residential property owners and affected residents in the Burswood area, and followed a few days later by a reminder email
- Invitations were posted to commercial property owners along both sides of Ti Rakau Drive between Greenmount Drive and Ti Rakau Drive Bridge
- Invitations were emailed to key stakeholders, including the Howick Residents and Ratepayers Association, Burswood Resident Collective, Greater East Tamaki Business Association and Greater Auckland.

In total approximately 92 people attended the sessions: 26 on Thursday 19 May and 66 on Saturday 21 May.

In addition, during the session on Thursday 19 May a separate meeting was held between representatives of the Howick Residents and Ratepayers Association, Burswood Resident Collective, Auckland Transport and Eastern Busway Alliance. The meeting was hosted in a private room for 90 minutes from 4pm to 5.30pm.

3. Summary of feedback and input

Summarised below are the main themes from the two sessions and including the meeting with Howick Residents and Ratepayers Association and Burswood Resident Collective:

Busway design between Ti Rakau Drive Bridge and Guys Reserve:

- there was strong opposition to the proposed alignment through Burswood. There was a preference for the design to revert to the 2018 design, with a busway running along Ti Rakau Drive between Ti Rakau Drive Bridge and Guys Reserve because it avoids impacting residential properties
 - attendees expressed the view that this design would provide greater access to the commercial area to the south of Ti Rakau Drive and in the Harris Road area
 - some felt that it should be possible to accommodate a busway along Ti Rakau Drive without extensive widening or property impact. *“Ti Rakau is wide enough for the buses”*
- requests for alternative designs included:
 - an elevated structure over Ti Rakau Drive, between Ti Rakau Drive Bridge and the Huntington Drive area
 - bus lanes along Ti Rakau Drive
- several attendees thought the design should include a park and ride facility, and that it would be necessary in order to encourage people to access and use the busway. Alongside this:
 - there were questions around feeder services, with a view that current services would be inadequate and would not replace the need for a park and ride facility
 - some people with mobility issues had concerns about how they would get to the stations without a park and ride
- there were suggestions for more cycling and pedestrian links to existing pathways to further encourage usage, such as connections to the commercial area and south to Stonedon Drive, from Kenwick Place and into Golfland Drive and Corta Bella Place, and south along Ti Irirangi Drive and through Botany
- there was a sentiment that the busway will be under-utilised and/or that services will be unreliable, with questions about the potential frequency and usage of buses through the day and evening
- there was some support for the proposal and positive about the potential to have convenient access to the busway and cycleways to encourage usage. They were empathetic towards impacted property owners.

Impacts to property owners and the Burswood community caused by the proposed alignment:

- there were significant concerns regarding the impacts to property and property owners in the Burswood area, with a view that there is a lack of affordable alternatives for affected residents
- some people were worried about their ability to access and/or afford a mortgage to purchase an alternative property in the current financial and housing climate, and requested that AT provides a mortgage guarantee
 - there were questions around the valuation process and the timing of that given the changing housing market

- there was concern about the impact of the proposed route on residents' mental health
- a number of attendees shared concerns about the impacts of the busway on the community if the proposed Burswood alignment were to be confirmed, such as:
 - increased traffic and demand for parking in the area, particularly around Bunnings given how congested that area is now
 - safety and security threats during construction and when the busway is operational, with fears around a potential increase in crime and antisocial behaviour in Burswood
 - questions around the ongoing noise of the busway operation and whether there would be a noise barrier or wall to reduce these impacts.

Urban development:

- concern was raised about the potential for extensive future urban development and/or social housing in Burswood
- there was a perception that the Burswood alignment had been recommended because of the potential for Eke Panuku to deliver future urban development in the area
- there was a suspicion that Burswood properties would be rented by Kainga Ora to provide social housing once they had been purchased, until the property was removed.

Construction and environmental impacts:

- there were fears about the impact to the community caused by construction, such as:
 - traffic impacts and potential congestion
 - noise and vibration impacts and how these would be monitored and minimised
 - questions around the length of construction, with a desire to make this as short as possible
- others raised questions about the potential environmental effects caused by the busway and its construction, including impacts to trees and native fauna including banded rails and pekapeka long-tailed bats.
- some people asked what feedback mana whenua had given on the proposed alignment, specifically the coastal marine area.

Communication, engagement and decision-making processes:

- several participants requested clarification on the project decision-making process and timing and expressed a desire for certainty; *"impacted residents want a decision to be made either way"*
 - alongside this there were requests that the decision be made without delay
- some people provided feedback on the communications and consultation process, including asking why the community was not consulted on potential design options. A few people commenting that they had not received the flyer or the email inviting them to the event
- the Burswood Resident Collective and Howick Residents and Ratepayers Association requested to meet with the AT Board and brief the Board on the community's concerns.

4 Next steps

The AT Board has extended an invitation to the Howick Residents and Ratepayers Association and the Burswood Resident Collective to meet during its upcoming board meeting on 26 May.

This report will be shared with the AT Board ahead of their 26 May decision on the preferred design alignment between Ti Rakau Drive Bridge and Botany Town Centre. The AT Board has received and will consider the reports from February and April 2022.

When a decision has been made on the preferred alignment, the alliance will communicate directly with affected property owners, neighbouring stakeholders and the wider community.

Following the AT Board decision, design of the project will progress and further community consultation will be organised to seek feedback from the community. Ongoing engagement with mana whenua, elected representatives, the Howick Local Board, property owners, key stakeholder groups and the community will continue throughout the project, as a primary and important aspect of the Eastern Busway's social license to operate.

5 Appendix

Hand delivered bi-lingual invitation advertising the May 2022 information days.

**Eastern Busway
Pakuranga to Botany**

Community information days


You are invited to pop in to an Eastern Busway information session to see where and how we are proposing to build the busway between Pakuranga and Botany. You'll have the chance to meet members of the Eastern Busway Alliance team and have your questions answered. Please let us know in advance if you would like an interpreter to be available when you visit.

Community information days will be held on:

Thursday 19 May 2022
3pm - 7pm


Saturday 21 May 2022
10am - 1pm

East City Wesleyan Church
219 Burswood Drive
Botany



To find out more, receive regular project updates or provide feedback, you can contact us on:

- easternbusway.nz
- info@easternbusway.nz
- 0800 BUSWAY (0800 287 929)

Eastern Busway 

**东区公交专用道
Pakuranga 至 Botany**

社区信息日

我们诚挚的邀请您参加东区公交专用道信息交流会,了解我们计划在哪里以及怎样在 Pakuranga 和 Botany 之间建造公交专用道。

您将见到东区公交专用道项目的团队成员,并回答您的问题。

社区信息日安排如下:

2022 年 5 月 19 日星期四
下午 3 点至晚上 7 点
会议全程提供普通话翻译

2022 年 5 月 21 日星期六
上午 10 点至下午 1 点
上午 11 点至下午 1 点会有
普通话翻译在场

会议地点

East City Wesleyan Church
219 Burswood Drive
Botany



了解更多信息、接收定期的项目更新信息或提供反馈,您可以通过以下方式联系我们:

- easternbusway.nz
- info@easternbusway.nz
- 0800 BUSWAY (0800 287 929)

Eastern Busway 