

City Rail Link (CRL) - Media Backgrounder

The idea of a City Rail Link for Auckland's city centre has been around for decades; since the 1920s.

In the 1970s it was part of Sir Dove Meyer Robinson's, vision for the city and although the proposal was taken through to design, the proposal was ultimately seen as too costly by the government of the day. In more recent times, new life breathed into the idea of a City Rail Link.

When the award winning Britomart Station was approved for design and construction in 2001, then mayor Christine Fletcher had the foresight to future proof the potential for a rail link to the western line. It is now time for Auckland to realise this opportunity by completing the rail link.

Britomart, which was opened in 2003 by Sir Edmund Hillary includes false walls and two outside tracks strategically located so they can push through under the Central Post Office building and QEII Square.

In 2008 the government requested KiwiRail to investigate protecting a route for a city rail link. KiwiRail and the Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA) completed this study in 2010.

In late 2010, the CRL was a key element of Auckland mayor Len Brown's election platform and continues to be part of his vision for Auckland to move the city to an outstanding public transport network.

Auckland Transport (AT) was established in November 2010 and combines the transport functions and operations of ARTA and the eight former local and regional councils of Auckland

In mid-2011, central government completed a review of the study for route protection for the CRL. It requested more work to be done prior to consideration of funding and agreed with Auckland Council that it made strategic sense to protect the route now.

In June 2011, Auckland Council directed AT to seek a designation to protect the route. Auckland Transport has now identified a route and intends to serve Auckland Council with a Notice of Requirement (NoR) for planning protection for both surface and sub-surface land.

The CRL is a cornerstone of key planning documents for Auckland; Auckland Council's 30 year Auckland Plan, City Centre Master Plan, the 10 year Long Term Plan and Auckland Transport's Regional Land Transport Programme. Protecting a route is the crucial next step to give Aucklanders the passenger rail service they have asked for.



Quality of life is key to why people choose where they live and Auckland currently scores highly but not for its transport. The CRL will help address this issue.