



MP for Te Atatu

Minister for Economic Development

Minister of Transport

Minister for Urban Development

13 SEP 2019

Colleen Bain

fyi-request-10995-142b86e5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Colleen

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2019 regarding request of information on the decision to remove Bayfair underpass from the scope of Baylink project under the Official Information Act 1982, as follows

"1. Please provide the following:

"(a) All information provided to you in relation to the recent decision to remove the Bayfair underpass from the scope of the Baylink project including but not limited to any change requests, memos, reports, and background documents (or equivalent) on which the decision was based;

"(b) All information on which the information requested in 1(a) was based including but not limited to any risk and/or impact assessments in relation to the risk and impact on the surrounding community and the impact on traffic flows from pedestrians and cyclists crossing Maunganui Road at ground level, the impact of the decision on NZTA's focus on creating accessible 'liveable communities', alternatives that were considered other than removing the underpass from the project, reports, background documents, correspondence and other communications which informed the information in 1(a); and

"(c) All information provided to decision-makers in relation to the 2018 decision to retain the Bayfair underpass from the Baylink project including but not limited to any change requests, memos, reports, and background documents (or equivalent) on which the decision was based.

"2. As the underpass is due to be closed within a weeks, and the decision has only recently been made public, I request the information be provided as a matter of urgency under s12(3) OIA.

"3. I note that as the decision referred to in 1(a) was made so recently, this information should be available almost immediately and the information in 1(b) should also be readily available. I am happy to receive the information in tranches for the sake of urgency".

Your request, in particular point (b) and (c), was transferred to the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) on 22 August 2019. You will therefore receive a separate response from NZTA.

I have enclosed two documents that fall within scope of your request, which includes:

- Attachment 1: BRI-1766 Bayfair to Baypark Project Update
- Attachment 2: Excerpt of Weekly Report #154 Week Ending 5 July 2019

Certain information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons and 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold this information. The contact details of the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PH' followed by a long horizontal line and a vertical stroke at the end.

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport

Encl: Attachment 1: BRI-1766 Bayfair to Baypark Project Update
Attachment 2: Excerpt of Weekly Report #154 Week Ending 5 July 2019

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Bayfair to Baypark Project Update
Date	9 August 2019
Briefing number	BRI-1766

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
Brett Gliddon	General Manager System Design & Delivery	s 9(2)(a)		✓

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- Noted
- Seen by Minister
- Agreed
- Feedback provided
- Forwarded to
- Needs change [please specify]
- Withdrawn
- Overtaken by events

9 August 2019

Minister of Transport

Baypark to Bayfair Link Project Update

Purpose

1. This briefing updates you on the Baypark to Bayfair Link project in Tauranga.

Background

2. The upgrade to the Baypark to Bayfair Link will provide improvements to the SH2/SH29A Te Maunga intersection and to the SH2 Maunganui Road/Girven Road intersection and complete the eastern corridor for the Bay of Plenty.
3. A pedestrian and cycle underpass was added to the scope of the project in November 2018. The underpass concept design was estimated at \$13 million. Following detailed design, this estimate was raised to \$33 million.
4. The increase in estimate is because the construction of the underpass has been determined to be significantly more complex than initially assumed. This complexity increases the physical works necessary and adds two years to the timeframe, which in turn increases the costs and interruption of traffic management at the construction site.
5. The underpass would have had to be built in stages in order to keep the state highway open to traffic. This complex staging to maintain 30,000 vehicles per day had a significant impact on the sequencing, timeline and associated costs.
6. The current underpass will close in September 2019 to allow for ground improvement works for the approach ramps to the flyover to be built, as per the original project scope.

Pedestrians and cyclists will cross via the central roundabout island through signalised crossings.

7. The current Baypark to Bayfair Link project will provide a signalised crossing for pedestrians and cyclists through a roundabout. There will be improved traffic light phasing and sequencing. As traffic (especially trucks) will be diverted away from the roundabout over the flyover, the roads and crossings will be safer for cyclists and pedestrians. A graphic of the roundabout and signalised crossings is attached as appendix 1.
8. While the project is underway, temporary signalised crossing points will be installed in proximity to the existing underpass on Maunganui Road to provide safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists.

Options under consideration for this location

9. We remain committed to increasing access to active modes of transport within the timeframes of this project. We are working through possible alternative solutions with Tauranga City Council to address the community's concerns.

10. A location close to Concord Avenue is currently under investigation for an overbridge, to determine if it is viable and would be aligned with future demand. The location is approximately 400m north of Girven Road and would provide a broader purpose to improve pedestrian and cyclist connections across the wider network (see Attachment Two).
11. This location would provide a more direct connection to Mount Maunganui, addressing severance issues and tying into planned cycle and pedestrian network extensions.
12. The Baypark to Bayfair Link project is estimated to be completed by December 2021. Cycle and bus prioritisation plans as part of this project should be confirmed by December 2019. The overbridge at Concord Avenue s 9(2)(f)(iv) s 9(2)(f)(iv)
13. We will update on the next steps for this location by the end of this year.

It is recommended that you note the contents of this briefing.



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Brett Gliddon

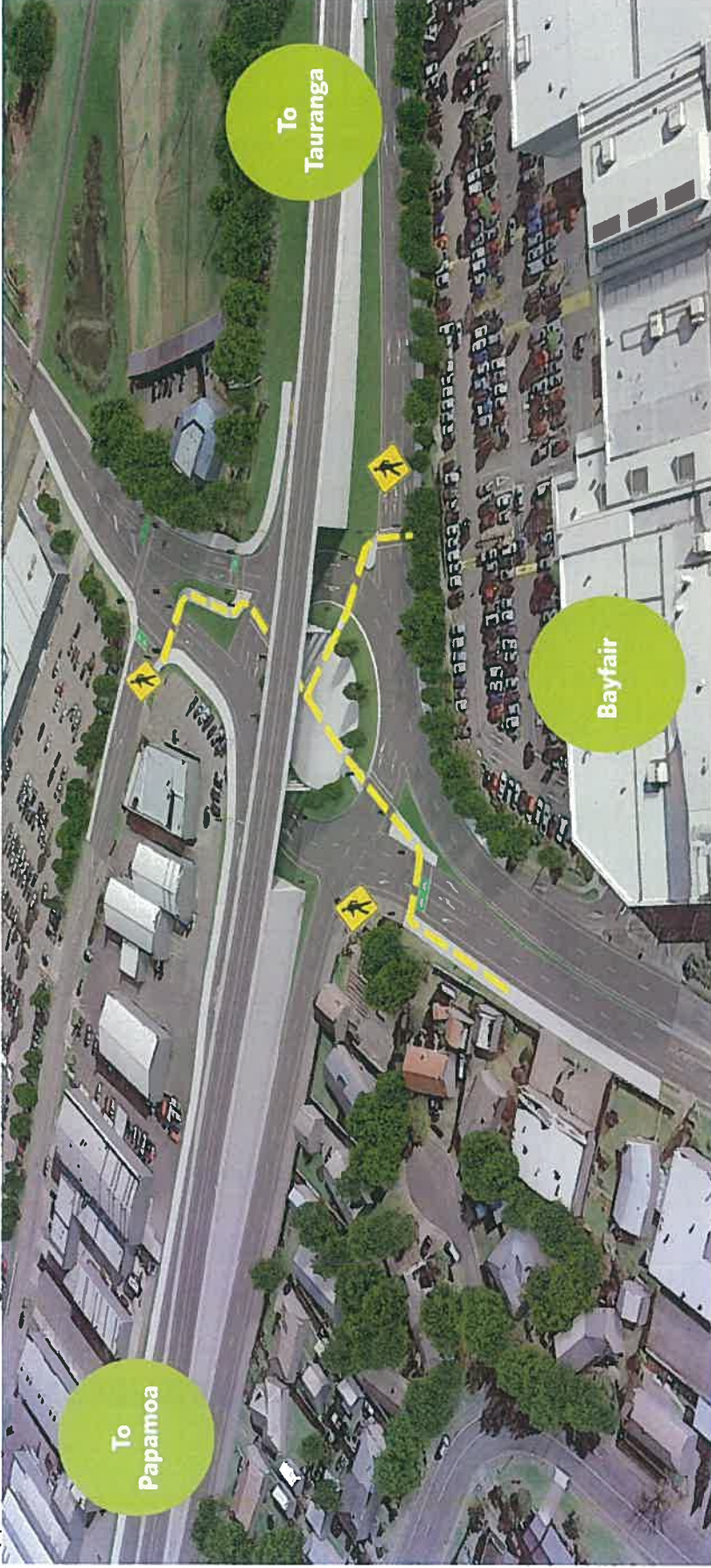
General Manager System Design and Delivery

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Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport

Date: 2019

Appendix 1: SH2 Maunganui Road/Girven Road intersection



Appendix 2: Potential overbridge location, Concord Avenue



5. Delivering on commitments



Baypark to Bayfair

The Transport Agency investigated the implementation of an underpass for a walking and cycling crossing of SH2 at Bayfair. The investigation, which considered factors such as physical constraints on site, and potential costs, has determined the underpass will not proceed due to affordability (the concept design was estimated to have a base construction cost of \$13M, however the updated cost estimate from the contractor is \$33M). The Transport Agency is now investigating other options (including an at-grade solution) to provide walking and cycling through the intersection.

Brett Gliddon, General Manager, System Design and Delivery s 9(2)(a)

OUT OF SCOPE

