

GOLDEN MILE PROJECT UPDATE

ISSUE 3
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Nathan Tupe, from Downer, works around pipes in Manners Mall during the excavation work.

We're getting there

- First – a big thank you to retailers, businesses and residents along the new bus route for your tolerance and patience so far. It's not easy for the workers to do a big job like this so close to shops and passers-by and your cooperation makes a big difference.
- Despite all the rainy weather over the last couple of months, the project is on track. We expect buses to begin using the shorter, more direct bus route at the end of November.
- Aspects of the work are weather dependent and we have made slower progress in some areas than we expected, but the Taranaki Street intersection changes are virtually complete and work in Manners Mall, at the intersection of Victoria and Manners streets and in Willis Street is in full swing.
- New multi-purpose poles – that can support the trolley bus overheads and other things including lights and traffic lights – have been installed at the Taranaki Street intersection, in Manners Mall and on Willis Street and more will be going in.

Manners Mall

- The first stage of the work in Manners Mall – installing new stormwater sumps – has been completed and excavation work for the new road is under way. This is the heaviest, noisiest, dirtiest part of the job but Downer will be doing what they can to minimise disruption.
- Activity will be in the centre of the mall – for some weeks. People will be able to walk along the footpaths on either side and cross at each end and at least one point towards the centre.
- We have found less concrete than earlier tests indicated and what's there isn't all of a consistent enough strength to be used as a base for the new road.

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That means we'll be excavating about another 600mm, pouring a concrete foundation and then reinforced concrete. The concreting will be done in sections and then asphalted.

- Due to the additional work, we are likely to be in the mall past the end of September but the contractors will be doing what they can to minimise delays, including working on Saturdays at times.
- There will be at least two diggers working in the mall—one digging up and breaking concrete and the other stockpiling the excavated material and loading the trucks that will take it away, first from the Cuba Street end and then via Victoria Street.
- Screens are being used to help reduce noise and workers will stop really noisy activities for half an hour every couple of hours and for two hours from midday to 2pm to reduce the impact on businesses and their customers. Diggers will still operate during these times but they won't be breaking concrete.
- The mall was created on top of an old road and tram route in the late 1970s. What has been added in recent decades as stormwater improvements and other work has been carried out, is well documented, but many utility companies work in this area and exactly how much of the old road had been removed over the years was not so clear. Mall revamps have happened on the surface and not required extensive excavation or foundation work.

- As some of you will know, workers have accidentally hit the capped ends of old water pipes in the mall several times. Downer are doing their best to identify and avoid pipes and cables (hitting them is a hassle for them too) but they are also liaising with utility companies so services can be restored as quickly as possible if anything is damaged.

Work in other areas

The traffic island at the intersection of Manners and Victoria streets is being removed so buses can easily move into and out of this part of Manners Street. We also have to remodel the footpath at each corner of this intersection.

At this stage we expect work at the Manners/Victoria intersection to be complete by late October and Willis Street retailers can look forward to more peaceful times in September. If that changes, we will let you know.

Contact Clark Mazey at Downer about any day-to-day construction-related issues on 027 442 1168 or 815 8383 or email clark.mazey@downer.co.nz

After hours, please phone 499 4444.



This artist's impression shows the view down lower Cuba Street from the intersection of Cuba and Manners streets. The new shared space in lower Cuba Street will be developed next year.