

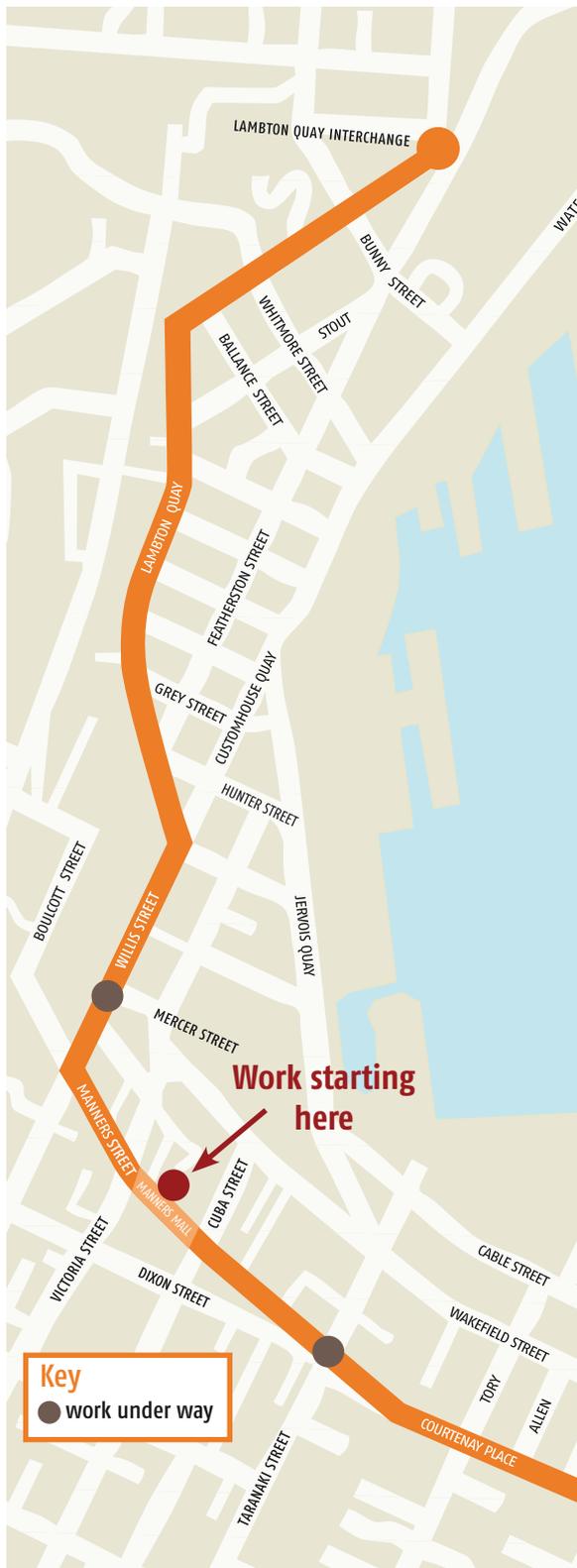
GOLDEN MILE PROJECT UPDATE

ISSUE 2
JUNE 2010

Work starts in Manners Mall

- Work is getting under way in Manners Mall this week (14 June) – and continuing in other spots around town too – as we get on with the job of creating a quicker, more direct public transport route through the city.
- Transport experts and bus operators agree that replacing the current split bus route – with all its twists and turns – is a necessary step if we want to help future-proof the city and further improve our already well-patronised public transport system.
- Over the next few weeks, you'll see new stormwater drains being laid across the mall at various points. We'll then build the new two-way bus-only roadway, create wide paved footpaths on either side, install trolley bus poles and plant some trees.
- There will be considerable activity in the mall, and in Willis and Manners streets, over the next few months as changes are made that will enable buses to travel in both directions from the railway station to Courtenay Place through Lambton Quay, Willis Street and Manners Street.
- We expect work in the mall to be complete by late September and buses to be using the new route before Christmas. Work on the new shared space in lower Cuba Street, where pedestrians will have priority, is planned to start early next year once the new route is operational.
- Our contractor, Downer, will be working hard to minimise disruption at all work sites. Work in the mall will be done in sections to ensure that people can still walk through and get to the shops, food outlets and businesses.

continued ...



How we'll minimise disruption during construction

- When we visited businesses in the mall – noise, pedestrian access to shops and dust were the three biggest concerns.
- Among other things, Downer will be using sound-proof cutting booths for cutting through paving; a combination of cones, barriers, signs and pedestrian ramps to provide alternative shop access if required; and dust screens and mats where necessary.
- Progress has been made on reshaping the Courtenay Place/Taranaki Street intersection but the work has been delayed by wet weather. All going well, it should be complete by mid-July.
- The changes at this intersection will allow buses to travel in both directions on Manners Street and provide safety benefits. We have removed the central islands and are expanding the waiting spaces to encourage pedestrians to wait for the 'cross now' signal. We want to discourage pedestrians from crossing against the lights because more people have been hit at this busy and complex intersection than anywhere else in the city.
- We've also made a start in Willis Street. The central island at the Mercer Street intersection has been removed so that buses will be able to travel up Willis Street. Over the next six weeks or so, we will also be widening the road between Mercer and Manners streets by about 2.5 metres. Some existing trees south of Bond Street will need to be removed but these will be replaced. We'll also be planting some additional trees.

Have your say on proposed speed limit changes

You may be interested in commenting on a proposal to reduce the speed limit from 50kmh to 30kmh on the remainder of the Golden Mile (along Courtenay Place, Manners Street, Inglewood Place and parts of Willis, Boulcott, Victoria, Dixon, Taranaki and Tory streets). This was identified as an important part of the Golden Mile project and broadly supported. However, we are required to carry out more thorough consultation under our speed limit bylaw.

We're also seeking views on a proposed 10 kmh speed limit for the proposed new lower Cuba Street shared space. Feedback is required by 16 July. For more information check Wellington.govt.nz, pick up a brochure from libraries or phone 499 4444 to request one.

Clark Mazey at Downer is the best person to talk to about any day-to-day construction-related issues. His phone numbers are 027 442 1168 or 815 8383 or you can email clark.mazey@downer.co.nz

After hours, please phone 499 4444.



An artist's impression showing how the new bus-only roadway will look.