

Minutes: Karangahape Road CLGS meeting

Date: 8 November 2017 530m-7pm

Venue: Pitt St Methodist Church

Present from CRL: Carol Greensmith, Nigel Horrocks

General attendance: 7 people

Following a PowerPoint presentation from Carol the following questions and comments were made by the audience.

Q: What about the issue of the station being in Mercury Lane and the walk up the street being steep.

A: It's a hilly city. Many Auckland inner-city streets are steep including Victoria St where the Aotea station will be. We will be providing points along the street where those who need it can rest and the footpaths will be wider than at present.

Q: So is there going to be no re-consideration of a station at Beresford?

A: Beresford is always in our plan but it's a question of when.

Q: Is there a chance that decision could change?

A: Maybe. We have a new board on board, now that we are CRL Ltd so it's always possible they may revisit the previous decision.

Q: Is there a possibility Mercury Lane will be pedestrian only and closed to traffic?

A: No, it is close to emergency services such as the fire and ambulance station and is considered essential as an emergency service lane.

Q: When will CRL be finished?

A: We're working on 2023/24. There are a number of contracts still to be let or confirmed.

Q: Will all of Pitt Street be dug up preventing traffic?

A: No. The plans have already been approved. Just as you will have seen downtown, there's a big hole in the ground and impacts on traffic but we're required for traffic to continue to operate. As with downtown, we're obliged to enable residents and businesses to have entrance access or we make an arrangement for parking such as with Wilsons. The same conditions apply for the whole project.

Q: What construction vehicles will be at Beresford or in the vicinity?

A: The TBM comes from Mt Eden. We will keep Mercury Lane open. The Asian supermarket site is a construction area for vehicles. I will find out the exact details of where the 'hole' will be.

Q: (Michael Richardson): Will the hole in Pitt Street look like the one in Albert Street? How disruptive will it be and how noisy?

A: The noise will be as per the conditions that have been set. Those restrictions were set after a long legal process. They are our Bible.

Q: How has it been so far?

A: We obviously have issues from time to time but if anything goes wrong, we will deal with it (example provided).

Q: When do we start seeing parking changes?

A: Not until we start making a mess.

Q: So that's two years from now?

A: Yes.

Q: Which will happen to any properties you have bought such as in Beresford Square?

A: We have bought properties for the CRL construction and have the area until we don't require it. If we don't need the property after CRL is built, we will sell it.

Q: What happens if damage happens and how will it be reported?

A: We have very sophisticated monitoring equipment, which is already in use for the present downtown construction. That equipment is so sophisticated and sensitive that the Kaikoura earthquake was actually recorded by it. I think I have showed previously the laser tracking we have in Albert Street to make sure any movement is recorded.

Q: A question about this new company structure. Will CRL Ltd own the network when it's built?

A: No. The company was set up to manage the delivery of the CRL. When the construction is finished, we will go away and not exist.

Q: When a new set of eyes looks at Beresford, are they likely to change the expectations and say we don't need it at all?

A: No we can do what we need to now to make a station possible as we can't come back and do it later. But we have to live within our budget and that means no actual station entrance there at this time. If we do anything that requires an increase in spending, the sponsors would have to agree and work out the financial requirement.

Q: Will requirements about traffic change?

A: No there are processes that have to be agreed on and have happened with the first two contracts, C1 and C2 which include traffic access planning and a process that includes feedback, having questions answered and a resulting plan that tries to accommodate people.

Q: What is the timetable for the supermarket being demolished?

A: They will take it over at the convenient time and then decide what to do there.

Q: What about George Courts? What will the residents there see outside their windows?

A: We've had two recent meetings with them – one of them was more a technical discussion. What will they see outside their window? A construction zone conducted under the strict set conditions, which we have to manage.

Q: So where exactly is the construction going to be?

A: I think there is a hole at both ends and not in the middle but I will check for you. Make sure you have put your email address when you signed in at the door and I will also provide the information to Michael who can distribute it through his channel.

Q: Who does the re-instatement of Pitt Street?

A: This is our project. Like Lower Queen Street in front of the Britomart Transport Centre and Albert Street after construction. We work with others like the council. The other thing is that when we go out to contract, we have ringfenced the look of the stations, we work closely with Mana Whenua with the designs and in fact one area we are thinking through with them is the name of the station such as giving Kaarangahape Road its correct spelling with the macron. This is just a proposal.

Q: Will you manage the land development?

A: CRL will manage the delivery project. We have identified people who can help manage the land opportunities but I don't know the exact answer to that yet.

Q: What happens with property owners affected?

A: We talk to every individual property owner. In NZ, you have to purchase the subterranean land. We have experts who negotiate that and provide compensation in cases where this prevents people building to the height they planned or a nominal amount for others who just have land beneath them bought by us.

Q: What will we see on the corner of K Rd, Pitt Street and Mercury Lane?

A: A hole like in Albert Street, hoardings around it although not as tight a space as in Albert Street whose size has been challenging. We will work with you and others on how it looks like. We have done a lot of work in Albert Street with businesses and neighbours including offering them different designs they could have on the hoardings outside their premises rather than just have ra-ra messages about CRL. We have provided wayfinding for businesses. We have staged events in Albert Street and next week we have events in Wellesley Street to make people realise we have removed the shed that was there and it is fully open for business as usual. We do a range of things.

Q: What will the pattern be for traffic going along in the intersection?

A: I don't know.

Q: Where are all the CRL stations?

A: (Carol showed on the presentation)

Q: Will Mount Eden station be in the same place as present?

A: No it will move. (Carol explains the big picture of the new rail map post-CRL and how it will improve times and travel options).

Any more questions? Ok, I will get back to you with details of the location of the two holes.