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TE WHAU PATHWAY FEEDBACK

The Rosebank Business Association ('Association') - 'Rosebank – Gateway to the West' - welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Te Whau Pathway Feedback.

The Rosebank Business Improvement District is a commercial and industrial hub of 650 + businesses located on the Rosebank Peninsula in West Auckland. It has direct access to the SH16 North-Western Motorway and when the Waterview tunnel was completed, it's traffic count increased to between 25 and 35,000 vehicles per day with immediate access and link to the SH20 Airport Motorway. Businesses in the area generate an estimated \$1 billion in revenue, pay significant rates and employ about 9,000 FTEs. The predictions are that this workforce will increase to 20,000 by 2035.

Background

Te Whau Pathway starts in Te Atatū South and finishes in Green Bay. It will be Auckland's only off-road route to connect the Waitematā and Manukau harbours. It is designed to improve access to the Whau River and create new walking and cycling connections for recreation and commuting.

Once complete, the pathway will pass through 33 reserves, sports parks, schools and communities in Green Bay, New Lynn, Avondale, Kelston, Glendene and Te Atatū.

Te Whau Pathway is being given a \$35 million upgrade as part of the Government infrastructure investment related to COVID-19.

The pathway is being built in stages. Sections have already been completed at Archibald Park, Ken Maunder Park, Olympic Park McLeod Park, Roberts Field and Tiroroa Reserve, and a section at Rizal Reserve/Sandy Lane is currently under construction.

Auckland Council is seeking community views on the design of sections of the pathway that haven't been constructed yet, and in particular the proposed design and location of areas for play, access and rest. Although Council are considering the design of the whole pathway now, only two areas of the pathway currently have funding for construction. While Council might not be able to deliver everything now, the feedback will assist with a 'road map' for what should be prioritised as more funding becomes available.

Feedback is being sought about both the locations and design of the proposed play, access and rest spaces along the pathway, anything that should be changed about the pathway design and any other issues. Some of the design elements include: the use of Fibre Reinforced Plastic decking; coloured steel, timber and solid panel balustrades and piles; water access for small vessels (such as kayaks, dinghys and paddleboards), rest points/pods; and incorporating nature play.

More information can be found at the link below:

<https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/te-whau-pathway>

Feedback

Previously, the RBA made a submission in support of the Te Whau Pathway, but asked that a key focus in the project be to ensure businesses were not unduly affected by the construction, operations and maintenance of the Pathway.

The RBA noted the negative construction effects of the proposal. The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) anticipated adverse effects associated with construction traffic, noise and vibration, access, materials and lay-down from the construction of the pathway. The SIA identified potential temporary disruption to local businesses in relation to construction noise, presence of construction sites / work areas and potential access restrictions.

The RBA supported the mitigation proposed, including: (i) a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP); (ii) Construction management planning and community liaison – to provide mechanisms for regular communication from contractors relating to when key impacts would likely be experienced (this included providing access to business premises throughout the construction phase and providing early notice of times when access would be restricted); (iii) managing construction traffic through a Traffic Management Plan; and providing signage at affected parks explaining what the construction was for and how long the construction would take as well as contact details if people had concerns or complaints.

Although the Association was in support of the Te Whau Pathway, it also suggested that consideration be given to appropriate conditions to ensure any negative effects were managed in a way that minimised impacts on businesses.

The feedback of the RBA on the current consultation is that it again asks that the locations of the proposed play, access and rest spaces along the pathway not unduly affect any businesses. Further, the RBA asks that the design of the proposed play, access and rest spaces along the pathway not unduly affect any businesses. The RBA asks for the pathway design not unduly affect any businesses.

The RBA also asks that businesses not be unduly affected by the construction, operations and maintenance of the play, access and rest spaces along the pathway.

Yours sincerely,