

City Centre Masterplan 2020 Access for Everyone (A4E), and Zero Emissions Area (ZEA): Summary

September 2019





Access for Everyone - Summary



Access for Everyone (A4E) is a new idea to create more space in the city centre, responding to the needs of our inner city neighbourhoods.

The concept is based on reallocating street space in favour of people, operations and street functions and reorganising access to prioritise trips needed to support the city centre, such as, such as deliveries, construction and emergency services.

A4E takes a holistic, proactive approach to our city centre operations; acknowledging that our city centre is a system, and that changes in one place will affect others. A4E addresses street functions as part of this system.

A4E would investigate creating more space for people by reorganising the city centre as a series of nine low-traffic neighbourhoods - including a wideranging pedestrian priority zone across the Waihorotiu Queen Street Valley.

A4E plays a key role in delivering a Zero Emissions Area by establishing the physical street changes required to reduce the impacts of road transport on city centre air quality.

The concept also focuses on a more iterative approach to city planning, including co-design with the people who use our inner city spaces. Right now we're piloting incremental changes to test how A4E might work and we'll improve it with each step.

A4E aims to provide healthier, safer and more equitable transport and public space in the city centre - for now and for future generations.

A4E is a high-level concept and would require further development and testing prior to full implementation.

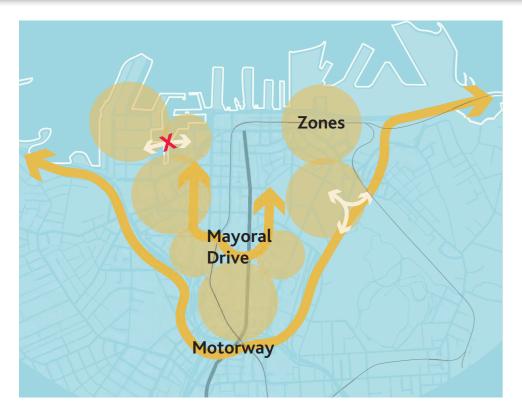
Benefits of Access for Everyone

- City Mobility rebalancing streets to prioritise space-efficient modes of transport
- Zero Emissions Area implementation of access management for the city centre
- City Centre Transformation holistic integration of long term planning, city management and investment





How might Access for Everyone (A4E) work?





Access for Everyone introduces a new traffic circulation system where private vehicles access city centre zones from the city's edge. This provides access to the city centre, not through it.

It organises the city centre into nine low-traffic neighbourhoods including one expansive pedestrian-priority zone across the Waihorotiu Queen Street Valley.

Wayfinding signage would direct city-bound drivers along specific motorway and arterial routes to their destination zone and an off-street parking facility. This makes way for mobility users, servicing, operations and delivery vehicles to have greater access to on-street parking.

Most trips would be expected to exit from the same zone from which they entered. Traffic not going to a destination in the city would be expected to use the central motorway junction as a bypass. Car trips inside the city (intra-city) and some city



access trips would use Mayoral Drive, which was originally built for this ring road function. Private vehicle trips between zones may become more circuitous and take longer.



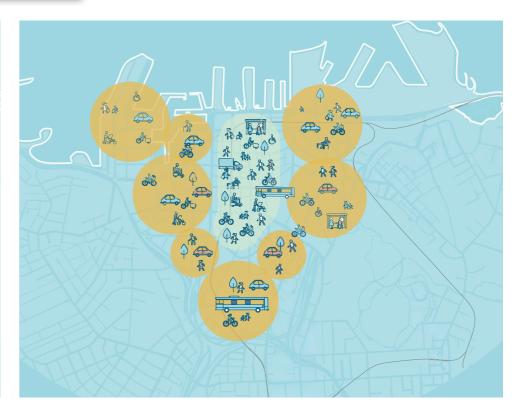
Component 2: Public Transport Priority

While maintaining most traffic movements to the city centre, the removal of some intra-city private vehicle movements opens up space to allow for a planned increase in public transport capacity from 35,000 to 88,000 people per hour; a rise of over 150% on existing levels.

Access for Everyone creates distinct street networks for different modes. Buses, light rail vehicles, people walking and using mobility devices, and people riding bicycles or micro mobility, would be able to pass freely between zones.

The street network would be designed to reduce conflict between modes, with specific modal access matched with the urban context. Access for Everyone aims to create abundant, safe access across the city centre for everyone.

The City Centre Masterplan sets out a goal of accelerated public transport and active mode shift accompanied by lower volumes of vehicles entering the city centre. This includes a target of reducing the number of people entering the city centre by private car during the two hour morning peak period by 20%, a drop from about 36,000 to 30,000.



Component 3: Streets for People

This traffic circulation and street network strategy unlocks city centre space that can be reallocated for other uses, including transport, public space and events. It would also accommodate the trips needed to support the city centre's growth, including deliveries, rubbish collection, construction, building access and emergency services.

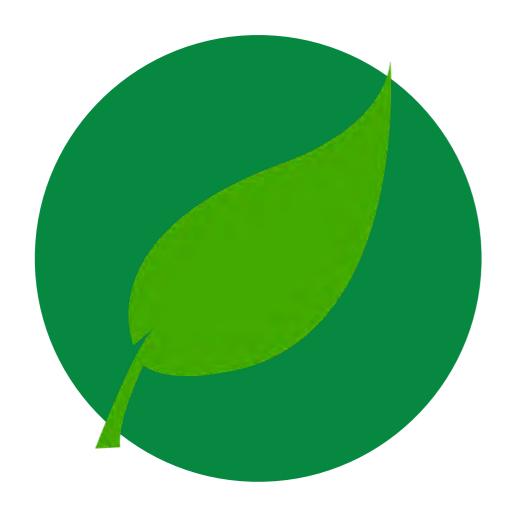
The pedestrian-priority zone across the Waihorotiu Queen Street Valley forms the Mayoral C40 declaration zero emissions area (ZEA); a flagship action of the Auckland Climate Action Framework.

The ZEA is targeted to realise the maximum benefits for people in the city centre, an area with the highest population density in the country, which also regularly exceeds air quality limits (see p. 4). Coupled with low- or no-emissions public transport, this initiative could give Auckland the cleanest air of any million-plus city in the world.

A4E is a high-level concept and would require further development and testing prior to full implementation.



Zero Emissions Area - Summary



Auckland City Centre is now home to over 57,000 permanent residents, workplace to 120,000 people, and hosts over 200,000 people every day.

Unfortunately, it is also where Auckland's highest air pollution levels are observed, with measurements having exceeded national and global regulatory guidelines for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM), including black carbon. The latest trend data shows pollution concentrations in the city centre are increasing significantly.

Air pollution is known to contribute to cancer, asthma, stroke and heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and changes to brain function linked to dementia. There is therefore an urgent need for action.

With most emissions and air pollution in the city centre generated by motor vehicle traffic, Council has committed to move towards emissions-free transport solutions as highlighted in two documents currently out for public consultation:

- Auckland's Climate Action Framework
 Key Move 4: Transform Existing Buildings
 and Places identifies a Zero Carbon,
 Resilient City Centre as a flagship action.
- CCMP 2020, under Outcome 9 seeks to deliver a Sustainable City Centre

The aim is for the city centre to have the cleanest air of any million-plus city in the world.

This will in part be delivered by Council's existing commitment to the C40 Fossil Fuel Free Streets Declaration to procure only zero-emission buses from 2025 and crucially creating a Zero-Emissions Area (ZEA) in the city centre by 2030.



