

NEWS

March 2005

3	Concrete falls and closes platform (New Zealand Herald Matthew Dearnaley) Chunks of concrete have fallen from a beam in the new \$211 million Britomart station. Engineers are investigating.
4	Parking meter costs increased (New Zealand Herald Bernard Orsman) A fee of \$2 an hour will apply in the domain and the \$4 an hour fee around the east and south parts of the CBD is being extended.
6	New parking meters trialled (city scene) New parking meters are being trialled in Princes Street which allow payment by credit card or phone text message. Note: See also New Zealand Herald article on the eighth by David Eames.
6	Driving us crazy (New Zealand Herald) In a centre page graphic by Phil Welch, expenditure required to fix Auckland's traffic problems is highlighted. Major items include the Orewa to Puhoi motorway at \$365 million, the northern bus way at \$290 million, Esmonde Road interchange at \$38 million, Upper harbour motorway at \$272 million, spaghetti Junction \$195.4 million, Newmarket viaduct upgrade about \$85 million, the second Harbour Bridge no time soon, the Victoria Park northbound tunnel \$200 million, Waiouru connection interchange \$20 million, Avondale extension \$600m-\$1b, Manukau extension \$174 million.
9	Demolition order shock (the Auckland Lauren Mentjox) Hundreds of home and business owners along Dominion Road may expect a letter from Auckland City Council as it moves to acquire land for a planned \$53.5 million upgrade, widening Dominion Road and planning for a possible future light rail system. A slightly more detailed article is presented in the New Zealand Herald on March 21 by Bernard Orsman, showing that this is a relatively long-term plan, with work not expected to be completed until about 2016.
20	Auckland International airport upgrades (New Zealand Herald Patrick Crewdson) Various upgrades recently completed and proposed are noted. A \$9.5 million check-in area has been in use from January, a forecourt upgrade is due to be completed in May, a baggage screening area costing \$28 million is to be in use by October and reconstruction elsewhere is due in December. Preparation for the new Airbus 380 includes widening the main runway by 15m, due mid 2006 at \$27 million. Similarly new hard stand areas will be completed about the same time for \$36 million. The new second runway is not included in the current budget, but is likely to be in use by 2010. More than 10.7 million passengers came through the airport's domestic and international terminals in 2004. 70% of all international visitors to New Zealand arrive at Auckland, averaging 29,000 per day. Total airport area employment is about 10,000
22	Off ramps to make life easier (New Zealand Herald Arnold Pick mere) Work is nearing completion providing off ramps from the left-hand lane northbound into the city and avoiding the current shambles where off ramps are directly from the fast right-hand lane. New ramps from State Highway one to Nelson Street are opening in about three months and the North West to Nelson Street is opening late April.