

Artist's impression of the new inner city park at the Vivian/ Victoria Street corner



Victoria Street Transformation

November 2014 – June 2015

UPDATE 04

17 December 2014

The Victoria Street Transformation team wishes you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

The project site will close on Wednesday 24 December for the Christmas-New Year break and will re-open the week starting Monday 5 January 2015. Site barriers in the block from Vivian Street to Abel Smith Street will remain in place but the three lanes will be open at all times during the holiday.

When work resumes in January, the transformation project will get into full swing. We will do our best to minimise disruption for businesses, residents and users of the street and to keep traffic and walkways flowing smoothly.

➔ Southbound lanes reduced but restored for afternoon peak

With the 30 June deadline in our sights, from January the transformation project will set up 6 separate worksites on each side of the 3 Victoria Street blocks between Dixon Street and Abel Smith Street with the site office being moved to the corner of Victoria and Ghuznee Streets.

Pedestrian diversions will be required and will be well marked and monitored by traffic supervisors. Traffic travelling south toward the suburbs may be restricted to one lane during some periods. Two lanes in the north and central block and 3 in the southern block will be restored for the peak going-home hours of 4.00pm-6.00pm.

➔ No turns north from Vivian or Ghuznee Streets

Because transformation works will intrude onto the street, we must close Victoria Street to traffic that uses the northbound lane between Vivian and Dixon Streets to head toward the inner city. Our priority is to maintain Victoria Street as a major route for people heading to Brooklyn and southern suburbs.

Starting the week of Monday 5 January, motorists will not be able to turn left from Vivian Street (State Highway 1) or use the northbound turns from Ghuznee Street until works are completed in late June. Electronic signs will warn motorists on the motorway near Aotea Quay off-ramp and Terrace Tunnel entrance.

➔ No parking on street or slip lanes

On-street and slip lane parking will be removed progressively through January while 6 worksites are established and will not be available again until late June. Off-street parking remains available and our traffic supervisors will assist people to access properties along the street.

Alternative parking may be available off-street nearby at: corner Victoria and Vivian Streets, Left Bank, Bond Street, Chews Lane, corner Victoria and Willeston Streets and in Marion Street. Websites <http://pgswgn.htsgroup.co.nz> and <http://www.parkopedia.co.nz/parking/wellington> provide information on Wellington inner city carparks.

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→ Southern block cycling lane – trial of kerbside lane

Following consultation, we will introduce a kerbside lane for cyclists on a trial basis from June in the southern block. Drawings are in progress for a lane between parked cars and the footpath on the eastern side of the block between Vivian Street and Abel Smith Street and will be made available in January. We will monitor and seek feedback from cyclists as the trial progresses. We are planning a meeting in late January to discuss.

→ Southern block night works

We will install stormwater drains across Victoria Street in the block between Abel Smith and Vivian Streets during the week starting Monday 5 January 2015. This will require night work from 7.00pm to 5.00am and will be unavoidably noisy, using a digger, hydrovac and compactor. We regret the inconvenience and will minimise noise as much as possible using noise barriers.

A traffic lane will be closed and traffic management will be in place. Property access will be maintained.

→ What's happening to garden beds and trees?

Garden beds in the three blocks are being removed to allow construction of wider footpaths and urban parks by Vivian Street and by Dixon Street (Volunteer Corner). The council will use many plants elsewhere but, unfortunately, some large trees will have to be cut out.

We will conserve and protect 4 large elms as features of the transformation – the elm at Volunteer Corner, the one at the Ghuznee St corner and the two flanking the entrance to Left Bank.

Other elms in the northern block will be removed in early January. It was a difficult decision but their roots fill planter beds that are being removed and will therefore be above ground level. Even if we could keep them, works are likely to damage the roots, causing a slow death over time. We will be planting more trees: 55 Italian alders as boulevard trees along the three blocks.

In the long term, the Victoria Street Transformation should prevent the need to remove mature trees in the future. The reason established trees are in the path of development is that Victoria Street was created by joining several streets together in the early 1980s to move cars quickly out of the city. This resulted in differences in road widths and narrow unfriendly footpaths in some places.

→ The vision for Victoria Street

We're transforming the southern end of Victoria Street between Dixon and Abel Smith Streets into a more attractive place which will be:

- A premier street within the Victoria / Cuba Streets Precinct
- A vibrant inner city neighbourhood that encourages commercial and residential development
- More efficient for vehicles and cyclists to use
- An enhanced pedestrian experience with public spaces and wider footpaths.

→ General work hours

Mon to Fri 7.00am – 6.00pm Sat 8.00am – 2.00pm

Thank you for your patience while transformation works proceed.

→ Contact us

To comment or inquire about the project or to register for emailed updates, please contact info@memorialpark.co.nz. More information is available on Wellington City Council's website: Wellington.govt.nz/Victoria.

