20 August 2026

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

File Ref: 26-0623

Kasey McDonnell
hello@wellyclimatenerd.net

Tēnā koe Kasey

Thank you for your request dated 8 July 2026, to Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council (the Council) requesting the following information on Dixon Street Upgrades. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). As per my extension letter dated 6 August 2026, I extended to allow for consultation, this has not been completed. I have addressed your questions in turn below.

In May 2025, the Environment and Infrastructure Committee (the Committee) approved the Council progressing the development of an upgraded design for the permanent transformation of Dixon Street. This work is being undertaken in collaboration with mana whenua, Te Aro Pā Trust, local businesses, and other key stakeholders, with a focus on ensuring integration with Te Aro Park.

To date, the Council has undertaken informal engagement with key stakeholders to help inform the development of the design and business case. The Council intends to present a business case and proposed design to the Committee in accordance with the resolutions agreed on 8 May 2025, however the project is currently awaiting being progressed through the 2027 LTP process. Following the Committee's consideration formal public consultation on the project is expected. In February 2026 the Mayor also announced the Triennium plan. Item 26 in the Triennium Plan recognises the need to reflect the importance to hapū iwi of progressing the Te Aro Park Upgrade when prioritising WCC's capital programme. In particular the Dixon Street Upgrade is recognised to be a separate project.

Your request, as currently framed, is difficult to respond to because up until the Triennium Plan instruction the Dixon Street and Te Aro Park projects have been closely interconnected, making it challenging to separate information relating solely to Dixon Street. In addition, responding to the request would require the collation and assessment of a significant volume of information from multiple Council records and correspondence as such we have provided summaries to respond. Also, some of the questions cannot be responded to as the work has yet to be completed.

To assist your request, the Council has provided some that information specifically related to Dixon Street. The project team would be pleased to meet with you to discuss the project and answer any questions you may have.

A. The design engagement and what it found

- The dates, channels and materials of all public or stakeholder engagement carried out on the Dixon Street design since 2025 (including any Let's Talk page content, survey forms, workshop or drop-in materials, the 4 November drop-in session on Manners Street, and letters/emails to businesses and residents).

- All feedback received through engagement.
- Any engagement report, feedback summary, or "what we heard" document prepared, in draft or final form, and any decision or advice about whether and when to publish it.
- A list of design changes made (or considered and rejected) in response to engagement feedback.

Informal consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken on 1 September 2025 and 4 November 2025, please see appendix one for a copy of the drop in letter and supporting material provided at the meetings. Feedback from these drop-in sessions will inform the business case, which will be made publicly available when the paper goes to committee.

You have asked for engagement reports/ and design changes made for the Dixon Street project. This type of engagement/reporting does not take place so early in a project. Once the business case has been presented to the Council and formal consultation takes place, the project team will then share the findings of the engagement and be able to present any design changes in response to the engagement. This part of your request has been refused under section 17(e) that the alleged document to contain the information requested does not exist. The project is Planned to be considered as part of the 2027 Long-term Plan process. The timing of when or if this piece of work will take place is still to be confirmed.

B. The current design and business case

- The most recent design for Dixon Street: concept, preliminary or developed design drawings, plan sets and design reports delivered by WSP or others, and the business case (draft or final) the 8 May 2025 committee decision funded.
- Any options assessment or multi-criteria analysis comparing design options for Dixon Street.

In May 2025, the Planning and Environment Committee instructed officers to bring a Business Case to the Committee in early 2026 for consideration. Following the Triennium Plan decision to separate the Te Aro Park and Dixon Street projects, a revised Business Case for the Te Aro Park Upgrade has been completed in draft form. The draft assesses options, and associated risks, that could be delivered within the approved budget as well as under an extended scope, and it is planned to be considered as part of the 2027 Long-term Plan (LTP) process, where the information will be made available to the public for consultation.

As the Business Case remains in draft and is intended to be presented to the Council for public consultation, we have refused this part of your request under section 17(f)(i) of the LGOIMA, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by, between, or to members, officers, or employees of a local authority in the course of their duties. The City Design team would be happy to meet with you to discuss the project further and provide an overview of the work underway.

C. Cost and spend

- The current cost estimate for the Dixon Street upgrade, and any quantified risk assessment.

- Spend to date against the ~$800,000 design/business-case budget approved on 8 May 2025, including amounts invoiced by WSP and any other suppliers.

Please see page 3 of the Question and Answer for the City Strategy and Delivery committee 2026-08-06-QA-CSD.

D. Programme, governance and status

- The current programme/timeline for the project, including any milestones for further public consultation, committee decisions, and construction.
- All briefings, memos or reports to the Chief Executive, the Mayor's office, councillors, or any committee about the Dixon Street project since 1 May 2025.
- Any advice, decision or correspondence about pausing, rescoping, delaying or de-scoping the Dixon Street project, including anything arising from the Golden Mile Independent Revalue Review, the Courtenay Place programme, or budget decisions in the 2025–2028 Triennium Plan or Annual Plan 2026/27.
- All correspondence with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi about funding or co-funding for Dixon Street upgrades.

As the project is on hold the Council has not received any direction to date on progressing this work. Our web page contains the most up-to-date information on the project - Te Aro Park design improvements - Projects - Wellington City Council. There is no budget decision on the Dixon Street upgrades in the Triennium Plan other than partnerships with Mana Whenua. There are no links to the Golden Mile Independent Revalue Review or the Courtenay Place programme.

As noted above the Te Aro Park/Dixon Street project is interconnected and is difficult to extract information based on Dixon Street. We have provided the below summary of briefing provided to Executive Leadership team, and Elected Members. Further information on te programme, governance and status can be found in the question-and-answer City Strategy and Delivery Committee - 2026-08-06-QA-CSD.

Elected Members	The project team provided a briefing to Ward Councillors on 4 December 2025. • General updates provided • Strategic alignment of Te Aro Park/Dixon Street • Historical decision timeline provided • Values and Brief of Te Aro Park/Dixon Street • Objectives for Te Aro Park / Dixon Street • Renders
Executive Leadership team	The Project team met with members of our Executive Leadership team to provide updates on the Te Aro Park/Dixon Street project on 16 October 2025. • General updates provided. • Pathway for business case to Council – February 2026 – critical decisions. • ELT to socialise the project with Mayor Little • Wider communication with key stakeholders to ensure cohesive communication. • Disruption/connectivity – Golden Mile stage 1 interfaces with Dixon Street there is opportunity to align construction timing

		(aligning Taranaki Street disruption with Dixon Street works to minimise disruption). Risk of Golden Mile Stage 1 not progressing leading to gap in primary cycle route. Early work on a construction disruption plan is underway.

There has been no communication with NZ Transport Agency since 2024 regarding funding or co-funding for the Dixon Street Upgrades. This part of your request has been refused under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

As per my comments above, due to the difficulty in separating out the information related to Dixon Street it may be best to speak with the team directly. You can contact them on citydesignprojects@wcc.govt.nz

I trust this information is helpful. If you have any concerns about this response, please contact official.information@wcc.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Asha Harry
Official Information & Privacy
Wellington City Council

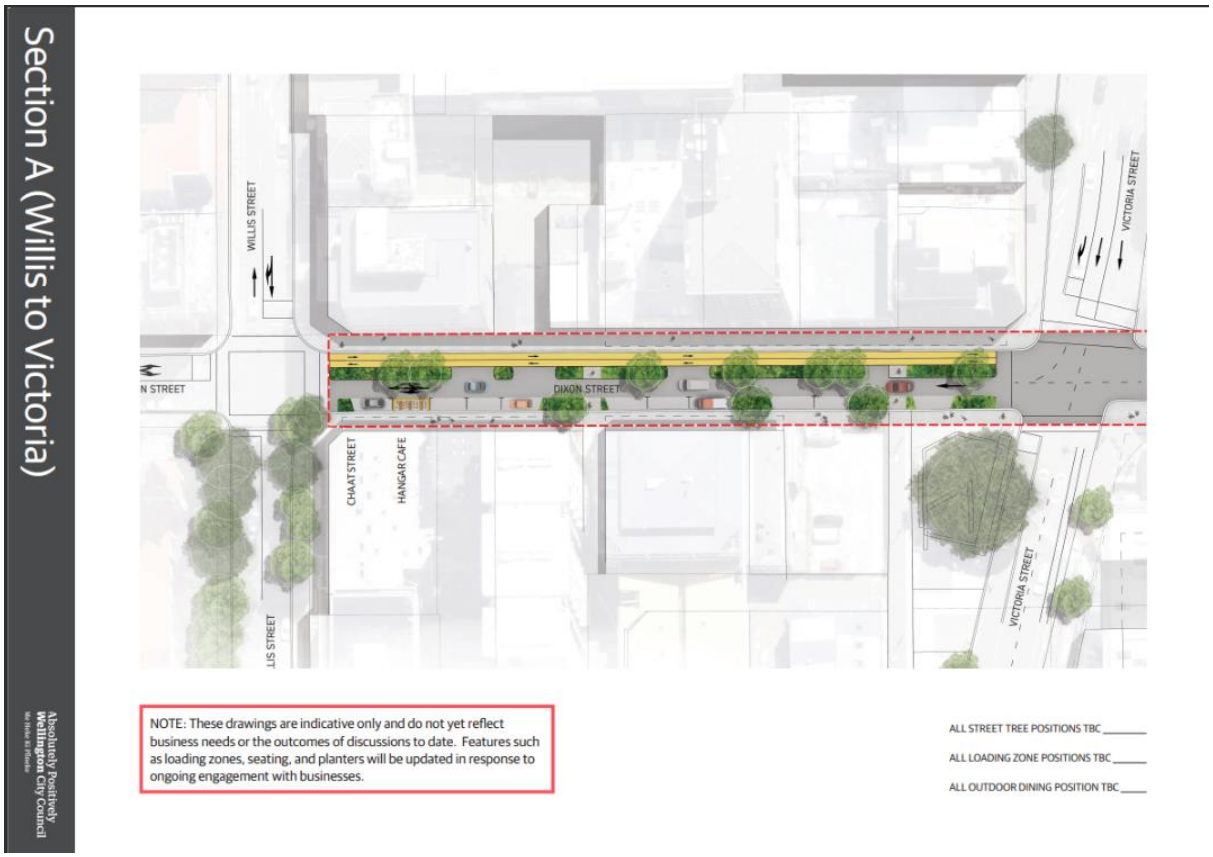
Appendix One: Drop-in session letters & supporting material

Dixon Street upgrades — stakeholder drop-in information session
Wellington City Council is planning some upgrades to Dixon Street over the next few years. With the project at an early stage, we want to let you know about the proposed changes and hear your feedback on the initial designs.

Project background
The aim of the upgrade is to rejuvenate this part of the city and make it a safer, more appealing place for more people to use and enjoy. This upgrade would build on the kinds of opportunities the current targeted street improvements are providing for outdoor dining and seating and make more space for people. The proposals will also include a bike connection between Taranaki Street and Willis Street in line with Paneke Pōneke, the city's bike network plan. The changes will be designed to integrate into future upgrades to Te Aro Park, which the Council is currently exploring in consultation with mana whenua.

Where and when
Council staff will be available to discuss the project and hear any feedback you have on **Monday 1st September between 2pm—4pm** at **Te Pokapū Hapori, 105 Manners St**.

For more information on the project, please see the Wellington City Council webpage: [Dixon Street and Te Aro Park design improvements - Projects - Wellington City Council](#).



Section B (Victoria to Cuba)



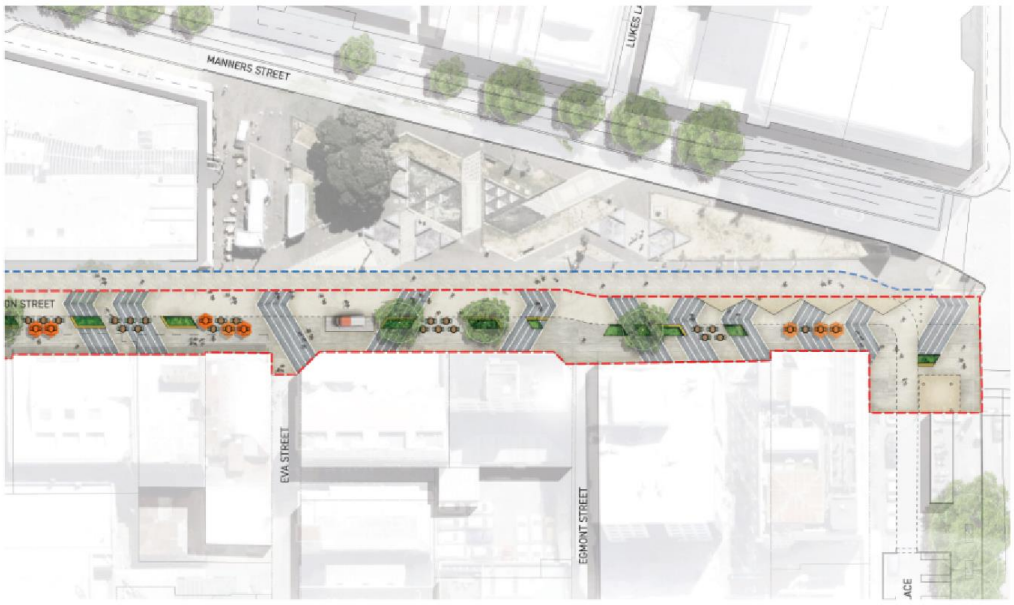
NOTE: These drawings are indicative only and do not yet reflect business needs or the outcomes of discussions to date. Features such as loading zones, seating, and planters will be updated in response to ongoing engagement with businesses.

ALL STREET TREE POSITIONS TBC_____

ALL LOADING ZONE POSITIONS TBC_____

ALL OUTDOOR DINING POSITION TBC_____

Section C (Cuba to Taranaki)



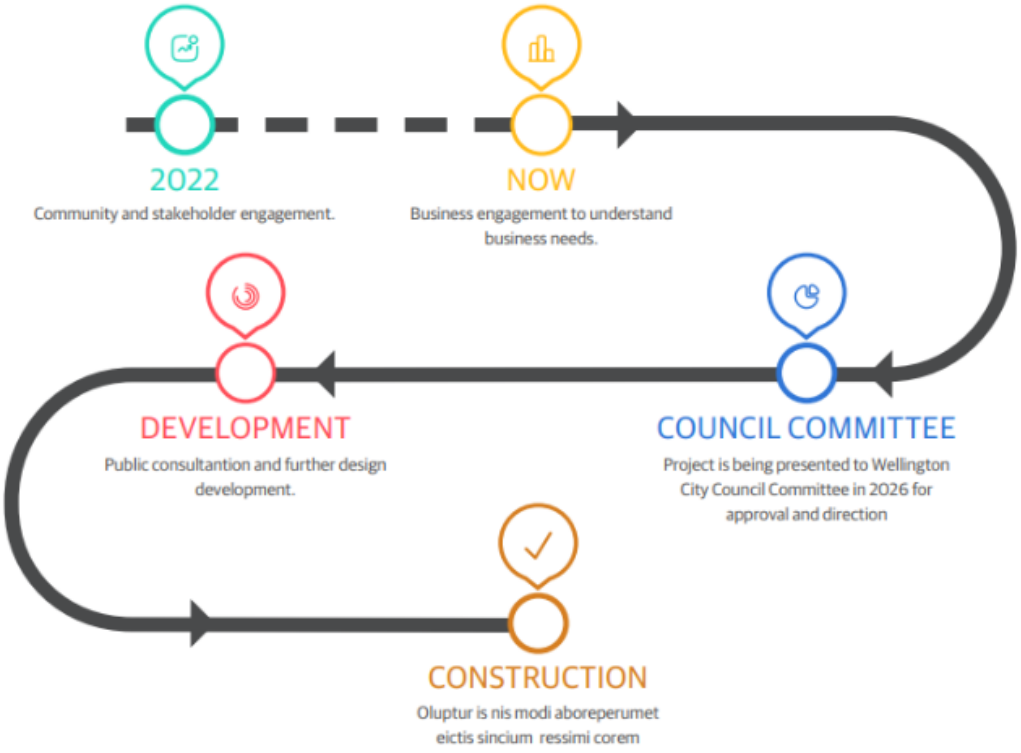
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ALL STREET TREE POSITIONS TBC_____

ALL LOADING ZONE POSITIONS TBC_____

ALL OUTDOOR DINING POSITION TBC_____

Timeline



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Project Background

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The Poneke Promise

Funded in the 2021 Long-term Plan, the Pōneke Promise (PP) was a three-year initiative committed to making our city a safer, more vibrant, welcoming place to be together with the community.

This project came about through the Pōneke Promise in response to safety issues identified in the Te Aro Park – Assessing Harm report.



Tactical Improvements

The first stage of improving this area involved temporary changes to Dixon Street that were completed in late 2022.

The scope was focused on the removal of the public toilets from the park, upgrading the area around them, and improving sightlines and connectivity into the park through the transitional work on Dixon Street.



City Safety and Wellbeing Plan

The City Safety and Wellbeing Plan is our renewed approach to safety in Pōneke. It outlines all the ways we hope to make the city safer and enhance the experiences for everyone who lives, works, and plays in Wellington.



Mana Whenua Aspirations

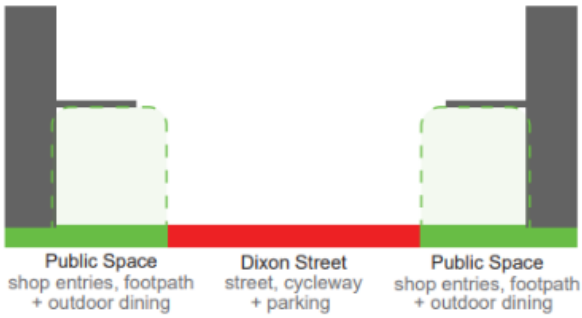
It was part of Te Aro Pā, one of the largest settlements in Te Whanganui-a-Tara prior to colonisation. Waimāpihi Awa flowed through here – and still does in pipes under the park.

Te Aro Pā Trust wants to see the park rejuvenated in a way that will restore its wairua and lift its mana. It's one of the few remaining public outdoor spaces that was once part of a pā.

Design Influence

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Section A + B (Willis to Cuba)





Section C (Cuba to Taranaki)

