

# RAPID TRANSIT

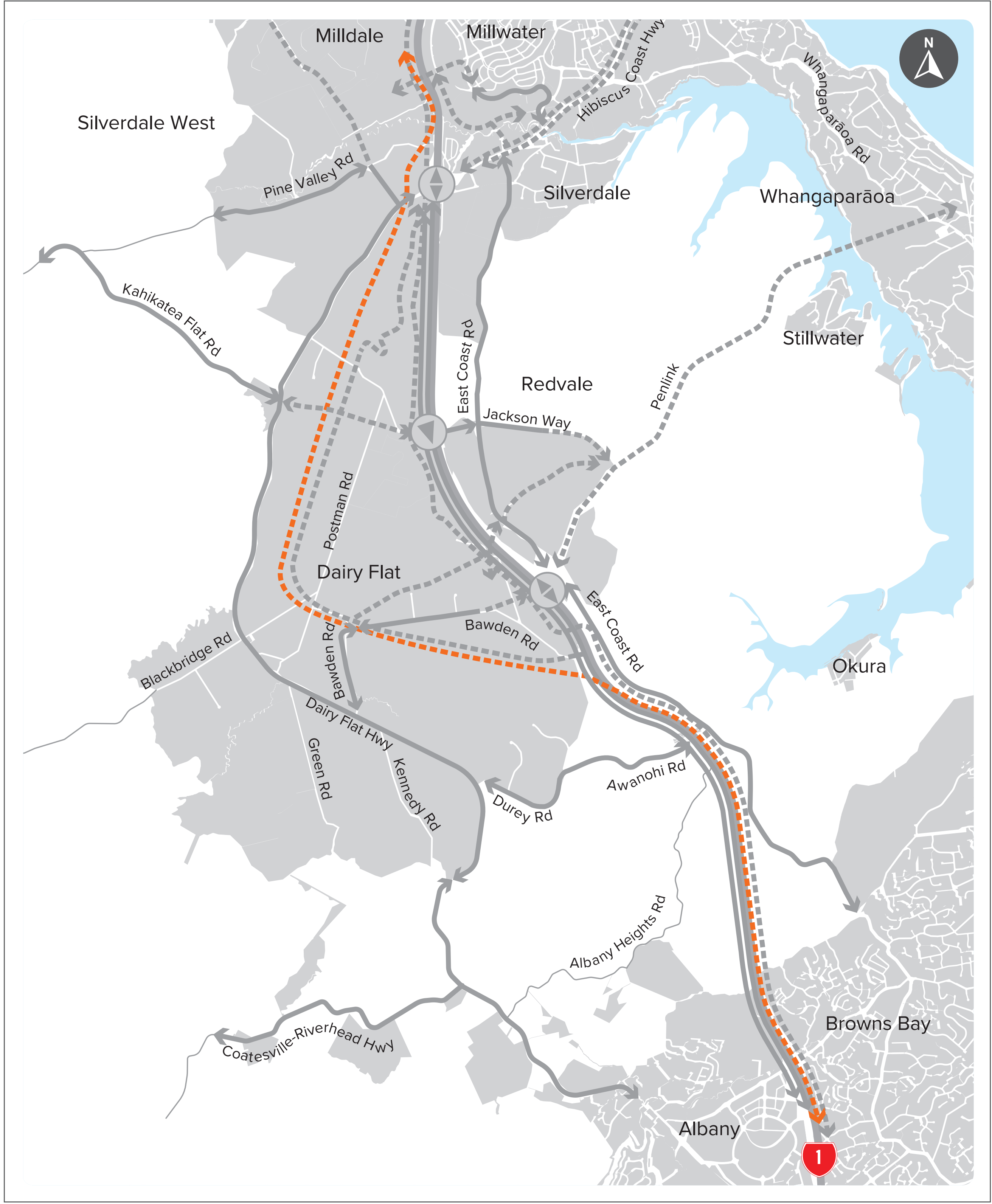
The project described in this profile has been identified by an indicative business case and will require further technical investigation and engagement before its final detail, location or land requirement is confirmed. It is also yet to be prioritised for funding for delivery over the next 10-30 years.

## Purpose

An extension of Rapid Transit in north Auckland is proposed from Albany to Milldale. This would enable a strategic public transport network that can provide frequent and reliable services for both the current and future communities in Orewa, Whangaparāoa, Silverdale, Wainui East and Dairy Flat, connecting them to the existing Northern Busway at Albany.

## Description

The rapid transit improvements are proposed to occur in stages to support growth across both the short-medium term and long term. Bus shoulder upgrades to Orewa and improvements at the Silverdale interchange to support public transport growth are planned to be delivered first, while in the long term a new rapid transit line that follows SH1 initially before diverting out into the future urban zoned land in Dairy Flat, and then travelling back to Milldale near Orewa, will be investigated. The long term rapid transit line is expected to be developed in line with the long-term growth planned for Dairy Flat, where new town centres are likely to be planned. The mode of public transport along the long term rapid transit corridor is yet to be determined.



## Key benefits

Rapid transit provides access to high frequency and reliable public transport for future communities, and it would enable the development of a quality, compact and connected urban environment in new centres such as Dairy Flat, Silverdale West and Milldale. The corridor would reduce vehicle dependency by providing a viable alternative for people accessing local employment and services, as well as commuting further into the North Shore and the City Centre.

## Current status

In 2018, engagement was undertaken on a range of options for rapid transit

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upgrades and extensions, alongside other capacity and interchange upgrades for SH1. Following analysis of feedback and technical investigations, a range of indicative upgrades with a staged approach was approved mid-2019. (For more information on the short-term measures for bus priority upgrades, see the *SH1 Improvements* project profile.) For both the short and long-term plans, at this stage we have a general study area for each project within which further investigations will be undertaken.

In early 2019, parts of the programme's draft plans for these projects were included in Auckland Council's consultation for the Silverdale West-Dairy Flat industrial area. Feedback received during this time will be considered as part of the next stage of the programme's planning.

## Next steps

During the next phase of work, the project team will consider alignment options for all of the staged projects. This will include social, cultural, environmental and technical investigations as well as further engagement with the community. Given the transport mode is yet to be determined for the longer term rapid transit line, some flexibility will be incorporated into further design work.