

Hamilton Section



Project newsletter Issue 03 | November 2016

Our Visitor Centre is now open

Our Visitor Centre is located in Percival Road, Ruakura. See our map below right for directions or just follow the signs from Ruakura Road.

View the project flyover video on our big screen TV. Learn about the project, its history, how we're building it, how we're protecting wildlife and the environment, and what we're discovering about our culture and heritage along the way.

Hover over the floor map that shows the 22km project from one end to the other. Check out the artist's impressions showing how the bridges and interchanges will look once they are complete.

And see what we're doing working with schools and communities.

If you need detailed information to take away, pick up the latest newsletter, project brochure or one of the range of Info Sheets we're developing to keep you up to date. Sign up for our monthly email updates.

And don't leave without taking a photo in our Selfie Corner. We've provided hard hats, high viz vests, safety glasses and a massive backdrop showing a dumptruck and an excavator shifting dirt. Dress up, pick up a cone or our Stop/Go sign, then snap a 'selfie'. Facebook it, Instagram it or Snapchat it. Your friends will think you're really on the project site.

Here's our WINNER!

In our last issue, we ran a competition to win a personal tour of the project site, including a ride in one of our big dumptrucks. Everyone who signed up for the email newsletter on our website during September/October went in the draw.



The lucky winner is Raul Chaves from Hamilton and we'll be organising a tour for him and a friend shortly. Thanks to everyone who signed up to go in the draw.

Our winner Raul Chaves



Drop in to our new Visitor Centre in Percival Road, Ruakura.

How to find us



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NORTH TO SOUTH – Construction Update

Lake Road to Osborne Road

We're digging sand near Lake Road and transporting it south to build expressway embankments and extend our haul road – the road our trucks will use to move sand and dirt from one location to another.

The haul road will cross Osborne Road to the east of Horsham Downs School early next year. Each school day, our traffic supervisor will be on site to ensure students cross safely on their way to and from school. We've installed gates for walkers and cyclists, and traffic signals and barrier arms to control traffic.

Earth barriers, sedimentation ponds and silt fences are successfully containing and treating stormwater before releasing it to streams and drains.

Osborne Road to Kay Road

Kay Road closed to through traffic on 3 October for bridge construction. We're making a start on the 20m cut through the Kay Road ridge.

We'll remove 144,000 cubic metres of earth and that will allow our trucks to extend the earthworks haul road south towards Horsham Downs Road.

Then we'll begin building the Kay Road bridge. Once finished in late 2017, it will be highest bridge crossing the expressway.

Kay Road to Gordonton Road

On Horsham Downs Road, we're building an access on to our site near Borman Road.

At Gordonton Road, we're building a bridge 'on the ground' then excavating for the expressway underneath. A road diversion is being built around the southern side of the bridge site. This will be two-lane and sealed, with speed restrictions.

In the next few weeks, a large crane will arrive to begin bridge piling. Pile casings will be driven into the ground by a weight suspended from the crane. This will increase construction noise for 4-5 weeks, and our closest neighbours may experience some vibration. We are keeping in touch with our neighbours through door-to-door visits, letterbox flyers and information evenings.

Gordonton Road to Percival Road

There is no significant construction activity in this area.

Percival Road to Morrinsville Road

A bridge is being built to take the expressway over the East Coast Main Trunk rail line between Ryburn Road and Ruakura Road. Piling is under way.

Traffic diversions are required to take Ruakura Road traffic through the construction site at different times. A two-lane diversion is currently in place, but once the bridge foundations 'come out of the ground' in February 2017, there will only be room for a single lane diversion, controlled by traffic signals.

Earthmoving teams are building the northern and southern approaches from sand sourced on site. This bridge is being built early because trucks will use it as part of the earthworks haul road in the summer of 2017/18. This means trucks will not disrupt road or rail traffic.

In the farmland between Ruakura Road and Morrinsville Road, motorscrapers and excavators have begun forming the trench that will take the expressway under Morrinsville Road.

Construction of the Morrinsville Road bridge will begin in December 2016. The bridge will be built 'on the ground' and the expressway excavated underneath. A two-lane traffic diversion is being constructed around the site. Speed restrictions will apply.

At 164 Percival Road, we've built our temporary Project Office and Visitor Centre.

Morrinsville Road to the Tamahere Interchange

A new East/West Bridge will be built to connect Cherry Lane and Bollard Road with Cambridge Road and Birchwood Lane. The expressway will be excavated beneath this bridge.

The soils where the bridge will be located will need to settle under the weight of large quantities of rock. This rock is expected to be placed on site in December. Site access will be established close to the SH1/Cherry Lane intersection, with speed restrictions for SH1 traffic. Settlement is expected to take 2-4 months, with bridge construction scheduled to begin in March/April.

NOTE: Construction will shut down prior to Christmas and resume after New Year.

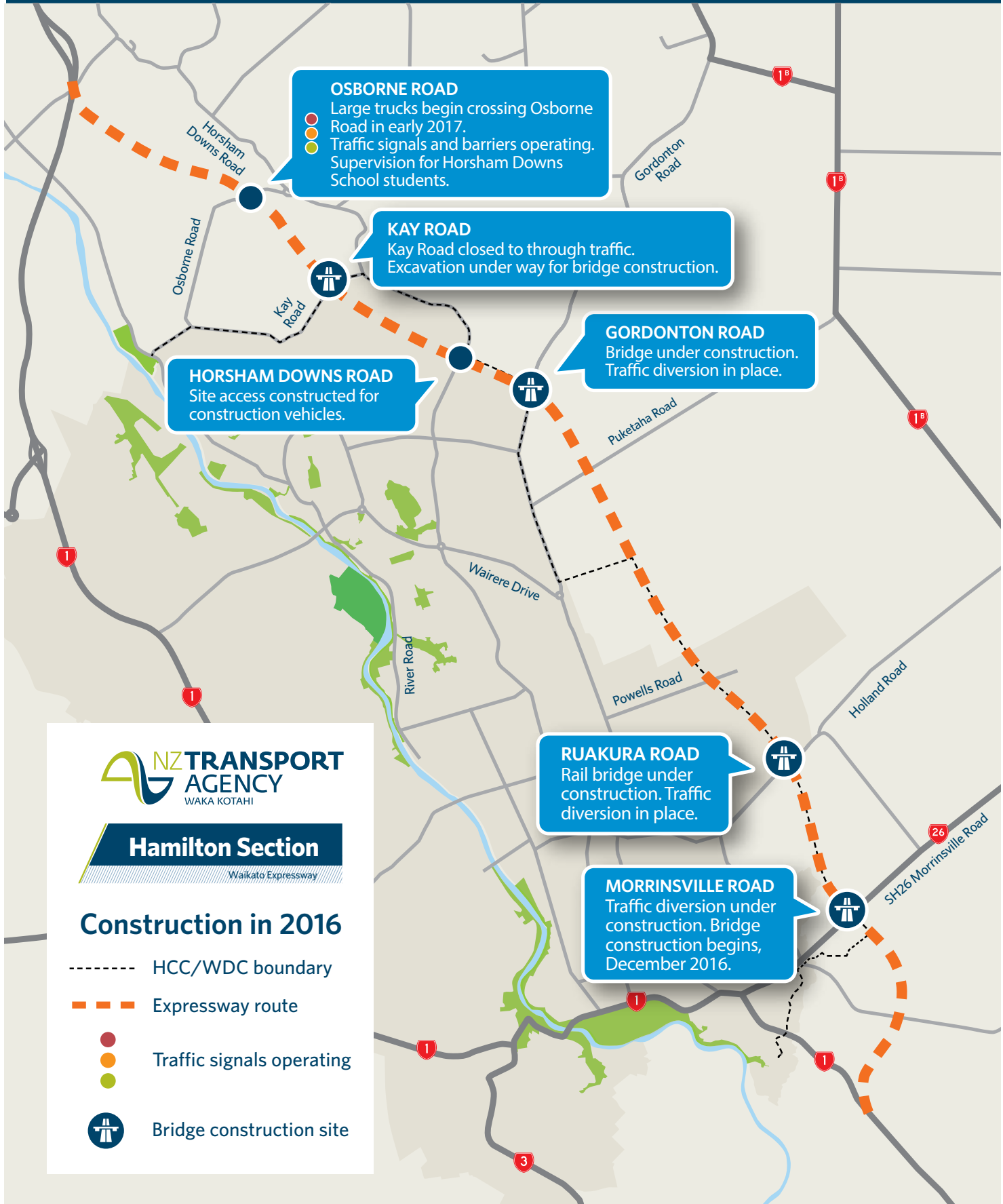


One of our dumptrucks hauling sand from Lake Road.



Pile casings ready to be driven by our piling crane at the Ruakura Rail Overbridge.

Project construction in 2016



Hamilton Section

Waikato Expressway

Construction in 2016

- HCC/WDC boundary
- Expressway route
- Traffic signals operating
- Bridge construction site

We're going up and over the railway line

We're taking the expressway up and over the rail line alongside Ruakura Road. Ryburn Road will also be realigned to pass under this bridge.

Construction of the bridge is well under way. Piles are being driven to support the centre columns. The ground supporting the bridge abutments on either side is being strengthened to withstand earthquakes and possible damage from liquefaction of the soil.

Traffic bypass routes are being constructed to keep traffic flowing through the site. Currently, about 7000 vehicles per day use this road. The first diversion route will keep traffic flowing in both directions, and our crews will try to avoid disrupting peak traffic flows.

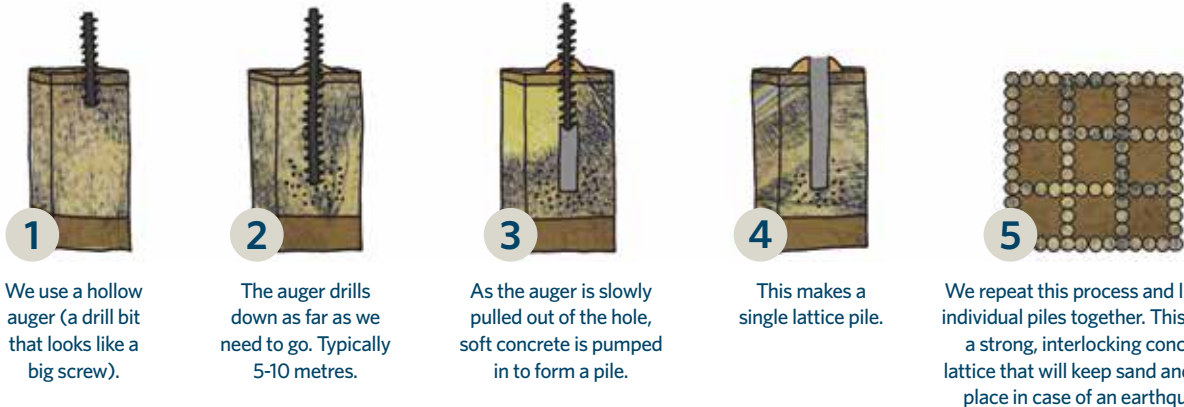
However, once the abutments are being built above the ground, traffic will be switched to a second route that is only wide enough for one-way traffic. Traffic

signals will control traffic flows.

Before we switch over to the one-way diversion, we will advertise the change using electronic road signs, advertising and publicity.

This is a very busy site with cranes, excavators, concrete trucks, road trucks and other plant operating within a confined space.

This bridge is a top priority because earthworks trucks will use it from October 2017 for hauling sand and dirt up and down the project. Without the bridge in place, these trucks would have crossed the rail lines and local roads, disrupting traffic.



Home improvement for lizards

The copper skink is New Zealand's smallest native skink, and it occupies a large range of habitats in the Waikato, such as forested areas and urban gardens.

Because of this, a number of lizards will be 'moving house' before we begin building bridges and expressway embankments.

The environmental team and our project ecologists use three search techniques to capture these elusive creatures:

- disruptive searches - scanning habitat for basking or foraging lizards, and checking all possible refuges by hand
- spotlighting - night surveys using spotlights
- artificial cover object (ACO) searches - placing a decoy object in the environment as a hiding place for the lizards.

Approximately 200 ACOs have already been placed in all three gullies (Mangaonua, Mangaone/Mangaharakeke and the East/West Link Gully) as well as other construction areas.

Signs have been placed in those locations showing what ACOs look like and asking people not to touch them. It is critical that they are not shifted or moved by anyone on site without contacting the team first.

Spotlight searches have been carried out, while disruptive searches go hand in hand with tree removal.

After capture, lizards will be transferred to holding cages then relocated to specially prepared lizard habitat constructed out of rocks, branches, bark and soil.



The copper skink is our smallest native skink.



Any questions?



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