

# Hamilton section



PART OF THE WAIKATO EXPRESSWAY



Project newsletter Issue 08 | February 2018

## Big lift complete at Kay Road

Our tallest bridge is now in place on Kay Road, north east of Hamilton.

During two weeks in January, two crossheads and 21 bridge beams were lifted into place and secured on top of four 15m-high bridge columns.

The rapid progress on-site was the result of months of hard work by the teams that manufactured these components. Construction crews built the two 110-tonne crossheads on concrete pads on the bridge site by assembling cages of reinforcing steel, adding formwork around the steel cages to shape the crosshead, then pouring the concrete inside. At the same time, subcontractors in Auckland produced the 21 concrete beams.

All these components were lifted into place by a 300-tonne crawler crane. This crane featured two crane booms and 251 tonnes of counterweights - allowing it to lift bigger weights than a standard 300-tonne crane with a single boom.

Our construction team will now prepare to pour the concrete deck and form the back walls at each end of the bridge. The pavements team will then realign Kay Road to tie in with the new bridge.

Once Kay Road reopens Horsham Downs Road will be closed near the intersection with Borman Road (near the old chocolate factory) so construction can begin on the bridge that will take Horsham Downs Road across the expressway. The terrain in this area will not allow room for a traffic diversion and service relocations so Horsham Downs Road will be closed for approximately eight months.



Going up - ropes attached to each end of the crosshead give the construction crew full control during the lift.

## Free bus tours at Public Open Day

Get along to our Public Open Day on Saturday 3 March from 10am to 2pm.

We're holding this event at our project office in Ryburn Road, Ruakura. There's plenty of free parking on site. Once you're there, take a free bus tour on to the project site to see how we're building the expressway.

At the Open Day, you can view our new scale model of the Southern Interchange - and our latest videos. We'll have displays showing you how we design and build the bridges and embankments, and how we're looking after the fish, birds and bats along this 22km-long project. Our big earthmoving machines will also be on display.

There will be a sandpit for the kids, a small digger to play on, plus prizes and giveaways. Save the date and we'll see you there.



Our Open Day - a great event for the whole family.



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# Project update: What happened during January

## 1 Lake Road



We're building the tie-in between the Hamilton section and the Ngaruawahia section. When the project opens in 2020, the Hamilton section lanes (SH1) will have priority at the merge.

## 2 Kay Road



The crossheads and all 21 bridge beams were lifted into place on the Kay Road Bridge in late January. Preparation is under way for the concrete deck pour, and construction of the back walls at each end of the bridge, followed by bridge barrier installation.

## 3 Gordonton Road



Gordonton Road Bridge is open to traffic. Our earthworks team is preparing to excavate the expressway under the bridge.

## 4 Puketaha Road



Ground improvements are under way to strengthen the ground where the bridge will take the expressway over Puketaha Road. This protects the bridge foundations from earthquake damage.

## 5 Ruakura Rail Bridge



Finishing work on the bridge is on hold while dumptrucks move sand north over the bridge to complete the earthworks haul road and build expressway embankments through to Puketaha Road.

## 6 Morrinsville Road Bridge



The Morrinsville Road Bridge is open to traffic. Our earthworks team is excavating the expressway under the bridge. This will allow dumptrucks to haul sand and soil north and south without disrupting traffic.

## 7 Mangaharakeke/Mangaone Gully Bridges



Rock armour has been placed along the stream banks where they will pass under the gully bridges. This will protect the bridges from flood damage. Ground improvements have also begun here.

## 8 Southern Interchange

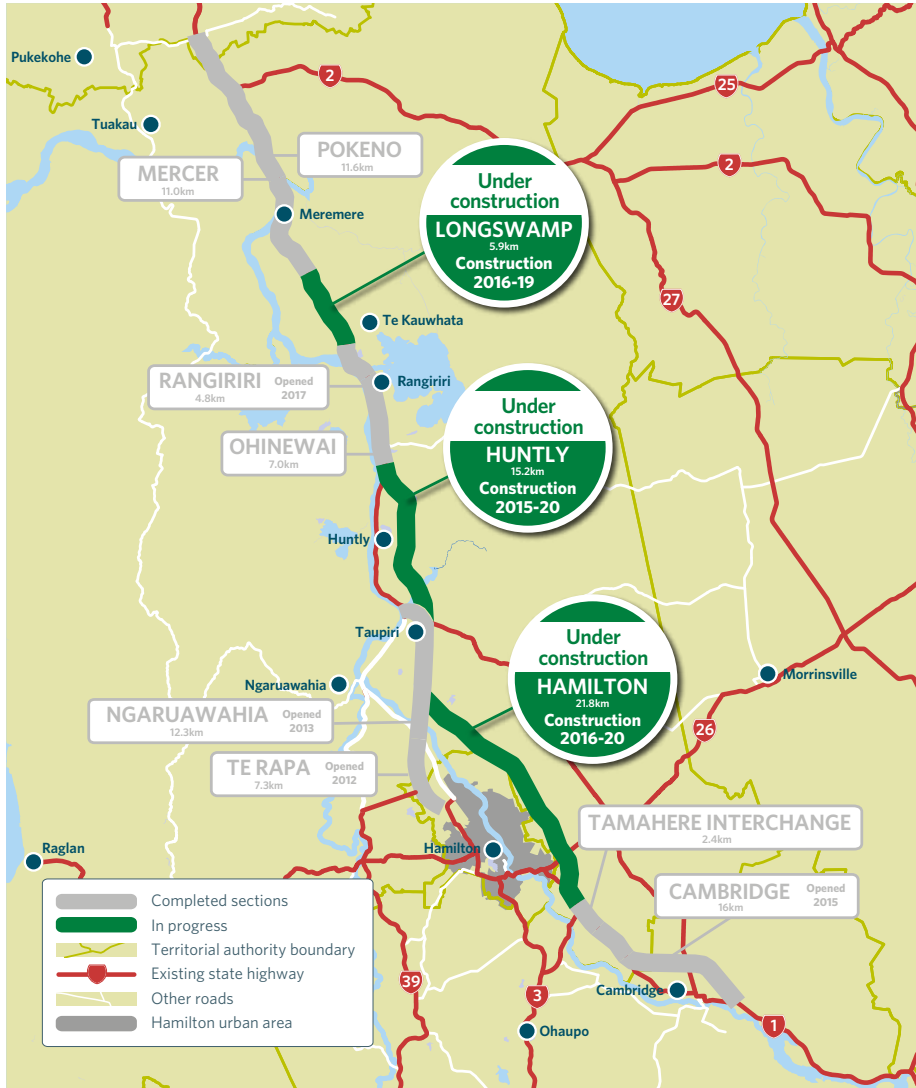


The southern section of the 16m-high retaining wall in the gully west of SH1 Cambridge Road is complete. Construction of the northern section is under way. The sand stockpile near SH1 is being used to build this wall. The concrete deck has now been poured on the East West Link Bridge, and excavation for the Cambridge Road Bridge is complete.



# Expressway overview

The Waikato Expressway will improve safety and reliability, and reduce travel times and congestion on State Highway 1 by delivering a four-lane highway from the Bombay Hills to south of Cambridge. The Expressway is being built in seven sections.



# Mudfish surprise

Before installing a culvert to divert a waterway under the expressway, specialists capture any native fish in the construction zone and relocate them away from the work.

In December 2017 our environmental team fished a drain near the Kay Road Bridge, expecting to find the usual few eels and small exotic fish. To their surprise they discovered 31 black mudfish. When the team returned to the drain in early January they found 12 more. Mudfish are a small endangered species. Only three had been found along the whole 22km project up to this point. All the fish were relocated downstream, with barriers preventing them returning to the construction zone.

The mudfish is unique among native fish, being able to slow its metabolism to survive in mud when streams dry up, then revive when the water returns.



One of the black mudfish which was relocated downstream.



## Visitor Centre opening hours

### NORMAL OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

### PROJECT OPEN DAY

10am to 2pm on 3 March.

### FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

The Visitor Centre will open from 9am to 12pm on 7 April and 5 May.



## Any questions?



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