

Hamilton Section



PART OF THE WAIKATO EXPRESSWAY



Project newsletter Issue 15 | November 2019

Free bus tours on to the project site

We're offering free bus tours through the Hamilton section project at our Public Open Day on Saturday 16 November.

At our Open Day last year, we provided six buses running a circuit through our site for four hours. More than 1200 people rode the buses while diggers and dumptrucks worked around them.

Because the rides were so popular, we've doubled the number of buses this year to 12, and we're starting an hour earlier to reduce the queues. Buses will run from 9.00am to 1.00pm this year. We're running convoys of three buses, each led by a pilot ute.

It's 'first in, first served' for seats, so get there early. You will not be able to book.

The Open Day will be held at our project office in Ryburn Road, Ruakura (see map on back page). A large paddock is available for public parking.

Our Visitor Centre will be open with models, displays and construction videos playing on our big TV. Senior staff will be on hand to answer your questions. Refreshments will be available to purchase from vendors on site. Buses will leave from outside the Visitor Centre.

These tours are only held once a year, so save the date - Saturday 16 November.



Building connections to local roads

The current diversion on SH1 at Tamahere is the second of six traffic switches required to tie the highway in with the Waikato Expressway. It is also the most disruptive for commuters and through-traffic, so your patience is appreciated.



The current works near the Tamahere Interchange - which required a six week diversion for southbound traffic - is almost complete. Normal traffic patterns on this busy stretch of highway will resume once southbound traffic is again flowing over the interchange bridge.

Currently, a long stretch of the southbound lane is being rebuilt. The old road surface and the top layer

of rock has been removed. New rock has been laid and compacted. This is then sealed with layers of asphalt to create a smooth, lasting surface.

The final four traffic switches will be less disruptive to traffic. These involve moving the southbound lane to run around each new section of road to be rebuilt and sealed.

New layout at Greenhill

The new road layout at Greenhill is now operating. Greenhill Road was closed in early October where it is crossed by the expressway.

Pardoa Boulevard - the new link from the Wairere Drive/Gordonton Road roundabout to the expressway - has been extended to run under the expressway and connect with Greenhill Road east of the expressway.

The road was opened on an unsealed surface, but has been progressively sealed in the weeks following.



Project update: What's happened since our last newsletter?

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Challenging curves and angles

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Project Update: What's happened since August?

1 Resolution Drive Interchange



The bridge deck is now complete, barriers installed and concrete walking/cycling paths are under construction.

2 Horsham Downs Road Bridge



The bridge structure is now complete. Services are being installed under the bridge. The road tie-ins on either side are also under construction. Horsham Downs is expected to reopen in mid-December 2019.

4 Powells Road Underpass



The ramps to take the expressway over the Powell's Road underpass are now settling. Once settlement targets have been achieved, the site for the box culvert underpass will be excavated, and ground strengthening can begin to prevent the soils around the underpass liquefying in an earthquake. Construction of the box culvert will follow.

5 Ruakura Rail Bridge



Construction has resumed on the bridge that crosses the East Coast Main Trunk rail line and Ruakura Road. This bridge was constructed to a point where it could provide access over the rail and road by dump trucks hauling sand to build expressway embankments. Construction of the bridge walls, settlement slabs and barriers has now resumed.



Traffic was transferred on to the new road layout on 7 October. Greenhill Road is now closed where it intersects with the expressway. Fill is being placed over the closed section to complete the expressway ramps. Pardo Boulevard now extends under the expressway and connects with Greenhill Road east of the expressway.

6 Ruakura Interchange

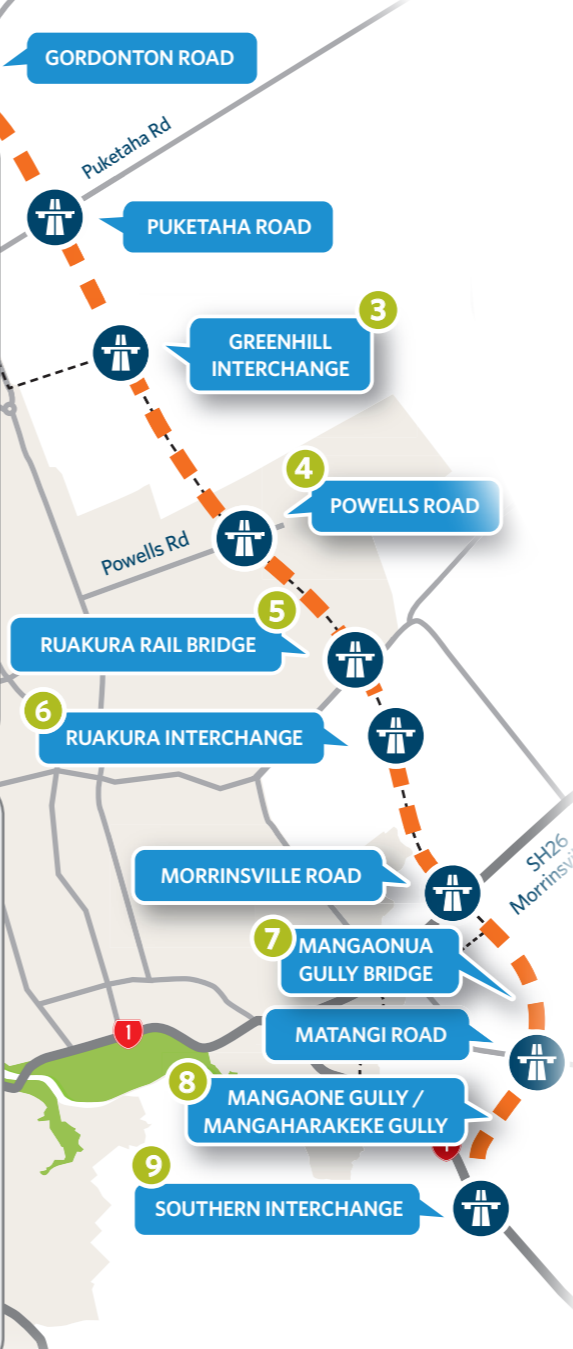


The interchange bridge is completed. The Ruakura Road East connection to Morrinsville Road is also completed. Design for the Ruakura Road West connection to Silverdale Road is currently being developed. Wetlands are now mulched and planted.

7 Mangaonua Stream Bridge



The steel bridge structure is complete. Construction of the concrete deck is about to begin.



8 Mangaone Gully/Mangaharakeke Gully



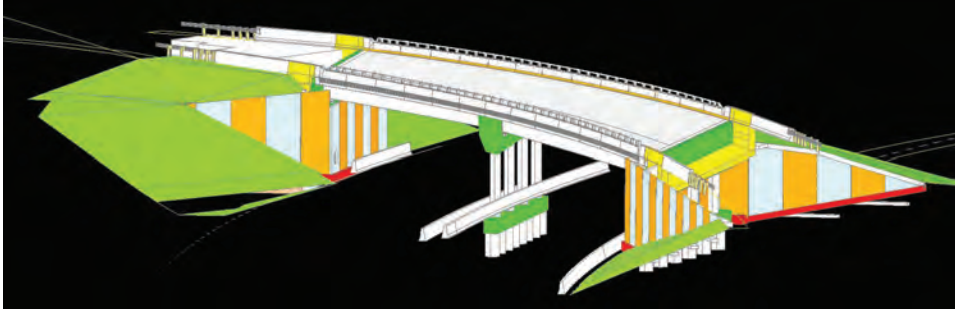
Construction of the end walls, wing walls, settlement slabs and barriers is now well advanced.

9 Southern Interchange



The southbound lane is about to reopen on SH1 at the Tamahere Interchange. A six-week SH1 traffic diversion has been in place to rebuild the lane where it ties in with the new expressway. Four more stages of road construction are planned, but they will be less disruptive to traffic.

Challenging curves and angles



Building the Cambridge Road Bridge at Tamahere is one of the most challenging builds on this project.

The bridge will carry a two-lane off-ramp south from Cambridge Road - over the expressway, then curving under the East West Link Bridge to join the expressway south to Cambridge.



The bridge is angled across the expressway - with the ends of the precast super-T beams joining the bridge abutments at angles up to 44 degrees.

The bridge is also curved. So while the basic beam structure is straight, the beams on each side of the bridge are manufactured with a curved edge. The beam manufacturer's moulds had to be extended for this purpose.

Because of the angles and the curve, this is the only bridge on the project with uneven numbers of beams on each side - seven on one side and six on the other.

They are also the longest and heaviest - up to 40m long and weighing up to 74 tonnes. They were placed by a 300 tonne crane in late October.

Construction of a road embankment to bring traffic up on to the bridge will begin shortly.

Planting out our wetlands

Another winter/spring planting season on the project is almost over.



Cold, wet weather is ideal for mulching and planting seedlings and specimen trees up and down the project. We're roughly halfway through planting 640,000 plants along the Hamilton section, with two seasons to go.

In areas designated for planting, we add 200mm of topsoil and a thick covering of mulch, then plant them out. Across the project, we've just completed building some of our large permanent wetlands. The banks are planted in native shrubs and trees, and the wet areas planted with species that help break down hydrocarbon contaminants before water is released to streams.

The photo shows our team planting out the project's largest permanent wetland, located north of Morrinsville Road.

Milestone moment for bridge builders

Lifting the final beams into place on the Cambridge Road Bridge in late October marked a milestone for bridge building on this project.

The Cambridge Road Bridge will take the Hamilton off-ramp over the expressway at Tamahere. Motorists using this bridge can either head south towards Cambridge or exit to Tamahere.

Eight bridges are now completed, with eight more nearing completion.

The bridge carrying the expressway over the East Coast Main Trunk rail line near Ruakura Road was partially constructed for dumptrucks to haul sand north to build road embankments. These embankments are now completed, so the final phase of bridge construction is under way.

A series of bridges have been built on this project to carry local roads over the expressway. The last of these - on Horsham Downs Road - will open prior to Christmas 2019.



Visitor Centre Open - groups welcome

Our Visitor Centre at 72a Ryburn Road is open each week day from 9am to 3pm.

Drop in to see our big floor map, our model and our latest videos. We provide presentations for groups on request. Phone 0800 322 044 to find out more...



Any questions?



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Phone us on 0800 322 044



Visit our website www.nzta.govt.nz/hamilton

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