

Hamilton Section



PART OF THE WAIKATO EXPRESSWAY



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Teams make final push before winter sets in

Up and down this 22km-long project, specialist construction teams are working hard to make the most of the warmer weather before winter sets in.

Construction resumed after Anzac Weekend following the Government's Covid 19 Level 4 lockdown, with a final push to complete bulk earthworks and bridge construction this year.

The earthworks team has taken full advantage of the long, dry summer to shape and finish embankment slopes, and restore areas where sand has been extracted. The team may need to work through winter as weather allows, to make up for time lost on March/April.

Bridge building teams have completed all the bridge structures and decks, and are focused on installing barriers and building precast panels for the Powells Road Underpass – the last major structure on the project. Bridges are due for completion this year.

Drainage teams are working north to south installing the expressway's permanent drainage ahead of the team building the final layers of road pavement.

The pavements team has laid and stabilised the first layer of road pavement rock across half the length of the project – 11km. The second layer is now going down in the north as they wait for drainage to be completed in the south. Consent applications to establish a dedicated asphalt plant on site are well advanced. (Local asphalt plants cannot produce the volumes



Reinforcing steel is placed and tied off before the final deck pour at the Mangaonua Bridge near SH26 Morrinsville Road.

required for final surfacing on this project.)

At the Southern Interchange at Tamahere, the new link road is under construction from Birchwood Lane. On the eastern side of the expressway, new local road connections are under construction, along with shared paths for walking and cycling. The expressway route under the new bridges has been fully excavated. Work

is progressing on the approach to the southbound on-ramp bridge.

The project is due to open by late 2021. It is not yet clear what effect the Level 4 shutdown and Level 3 restrictions will have on that timeframe. Any change to the completion date will be communicated as soon as it is confirmed.



A bulldozer spreads topsoil to restore an area where sand has been extracted.



A truck is loaded with rock at the Lake Road blending plant for road pavement construction.



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

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**What's happening at the
Southern Interchange?**

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Project Update: What's happened since February?

1 Lake Road



The Hi-Lab blending plant will soon be relocated from Lake Road to a base near Puketaha Road. A team is working north-to-south finishing the verges along the expressway for grassing and planting. The first layer of Hi-Lab pavement now extends 8km to the south, and north to merge with the Ngaruawahia Section. The second layer of Hi-Lab pavement is being laid south of Lake Road.

2 Resolution Interchange



Bridge guardrails have been installed on top of concrete barriers. Pavement rock is about to be laid on the interchange ramps. Work has started creating the spiral landscaping and shared paths on each side of the interchange.

4 Powells Road Underpass



Ground improvements are well under way for the Powell's Road Underpass. This will protect the underpass structure from liquefaction in earthquakes. Two piling rigs are working to complete the ground improvements.



3 Greenhill Interchange



Asphalting is about to be laid along Pardo Boulevard and on the roundabouts at the interchange. Road marking will complete this local road under the interchange.

5 Ruakura Rail Bridge



Barrier construction is now complete on this bridge which crosses the East Coast Main Trunk Rail Line, Ruakura Road and Ryburn Road. The first layer of Hi-Lab road pavement has been laid north and south of the bridge.

6 Ruakura Interchange



Bridge construction and landscaping of the interchange is complete. Drainage is nearing completion at the interchange and on the expressway to the south. The inlet and outlet structures at a large engineered wetland south of the interchange are now complete. Rehabilitation of farmland near SH26 Morrinsville Road is also nearing completion.

7 Mangaonua Stream Bridge



The steel bridge structure and concrete deck are now complete. Construction will be completed later this year. Expressway drainage works are progressing south past Matangi Road to the southern gullies.



8 Mangaharakeke/Mangaone Stream Bridges



Barrier construction is under way along the edges of these two southern gully bridges.

9 Southern Interchange



The Cambridge Road Bridge which will carry traffic south from Hamilton is nearing completion. Barrier construction is progressing, along with construction of the approach road from the city. A retaining wall is being completed alongside SH1.

At the East West Link Bridge across SH1, concrete anchors for the bridge will soon extend into the old Cherry Lane/Cambridge Road intersection. The intersection will be relocated further east.

Further south, the old section of Cambridge Road is being rebuilt with new drainage. From Birchwood Lane, the new link road across the gullies to Cherry Lane is now under construction.

What's happening at the Southern Interchange?



- 1** Concrete barriers are being made off-site. A truck delivers them, a crane lifts them into place along each side of the bridge and they are concreted into place.
- 2** Permanent ponds are being formed to store and treat water running off the expressway. They are lined with clay and topsoiled for planting with species that will remove contaminants before water is released to the stream.
- 3** A new bridge will take two lanes of traffic over the expressway and south to Cambridge. To build the road connection to the bridge requires some filling of the adjacent gully. This work has begun.
- 4** This on-ramp will take traffic south and under the East West Link Bridge. Work is about to begin forming the road foundation for this on-ramp. (The on-ramp will also provide an off-ramp to Cherry Lane and Bollard Road.)
- 5** Anchors to secure the bridge are about to be built - extending into the Cherry Lane intersection. Once they are complete, construction of a raised roundabout will begin. This will connect Cherry Lane and Cambridge Road to the bridge.
- 6** This disconnected section of Cambridge Road is being reshaped and reconstructed, with new drainage.
- 7** Excavation of the expressway is complete and the foundation for the road is being constructed.
- 8** Two large culverts have been built and fill placed on top to form an embankment for the link road to Birchwood Lane. The fill needs up to seven months to settle before the road can be built on top. The road foundation from Birchwood Lane to the edge of the gully fill is under construction now. Road construction will follow.
- 9** A cultural reserve will be developed in here. Archaeological investigation is required before construction can begin.
- 10** A road is being built for access to the cultural reserve and to the six homes that currently have access from SH1.



Any questions?



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