

# Hamilton Section



PART OF THE WAIKATO EXPRESSWAY



Project newsletter Issue 19 | November 2020

## That's half a million plants!

**Project plantings have just ticked over 500,000 plants.**

When the project opens to traffic in late 2021, the Hamilton Section will feature 860,000 new plants – mainly native species grown from locally sourced seed.

The project's goal is to enhance the environment along the expressway route and leave it in a healthier state than it was in prior to construction.

In the Mangaonua Gully near SH26 Morrinsville Road, clearing and restoration planting is almost complete. Our contractors will monitor and maintain the plantings over five years to ensure they establish successfully. The goal is to provide new habitat for native bats, birds and lizards.

Restoration planting has also begun in the Mangaone and Mangaharakeke Gullies in Tamahere. Invasive species such as woolly nightshade, wattles and wildling pines were removed before native seedlings were planted.

Planting is now complete for the 2020 winter season. Planting can only be carried out during winter and spring when soils are wet, and temperatures are cool. The remaining 360,000 seedlings and specimen trees will be planted next winter.



Planting in the gullies, with the 150m-long Mangaonua Stream Bridge in the background.

## Powells Road update

**The project's last major structure – the Powells Road Underpass – is taking shape.**

The precast eastern wingwalls were placed first. The main walls are then formed on site. The photo shows the reinforcing steel in place for one wall and the form work being installed to create the mould that concrete will be poured into.

Once the walls are in place, the roof panels will be formed and poured on site to complete the box culvert structure.



The main walls for the underpass are being formed and poured on site.

## New sites up and running

**Production from the new asphalt plant at Ruakura is ramping up.**

A large pad for the plant was prepared and compacted over winter, and the relocatable plant was assembled and commissioned in September/October. Production is currently ramping up to full capacity. The plant will produce 120,000 tonnes of asphalt for final sealing over the next year.

The project's Hi-Lab rock blending plant has been relocated from Lake Road to Puketaha Road. It is now producing the project's special Hi-Lab rock blend for the final third of the project – extending south from the Ruakura Interchange.



The new asphalt plant at Ruakura.

Prime coat spraying and chip sealing has begun in the north between Osborne Road and Kay Road. A finishing layer of asphalt will be laid on top of the chip seal.



# Project Update: What's happened since August?

## 1 Lake Road



The Hi-Lab blending plant has been relocated from Lake Road to a new base at Puketaha. Drainage installation continues.

## 2 Resolution Interchange



The bridge is complete. Landscaping continues. Prime coat spraying and chip sealing is under way. Work is about to resume on the link from the interchange to Resolution Drive.

## 4 Greenhill Interchange



Layers of compacted sand are being prepared and tested in preparation for pavement construction. Chip seal repairs have been carried out on the local road connections.



## 3 Putekaha Bridge



Production of our Hi-Lab rock blend has resumed at the project's relocatable blending plant, now sited near Puketaha Road.

## 5 Powells Road Underpass



The main walls and western wingwalls of the box culvert underpass are now complete. Construction continues.

## 6 Ruakura Interchange

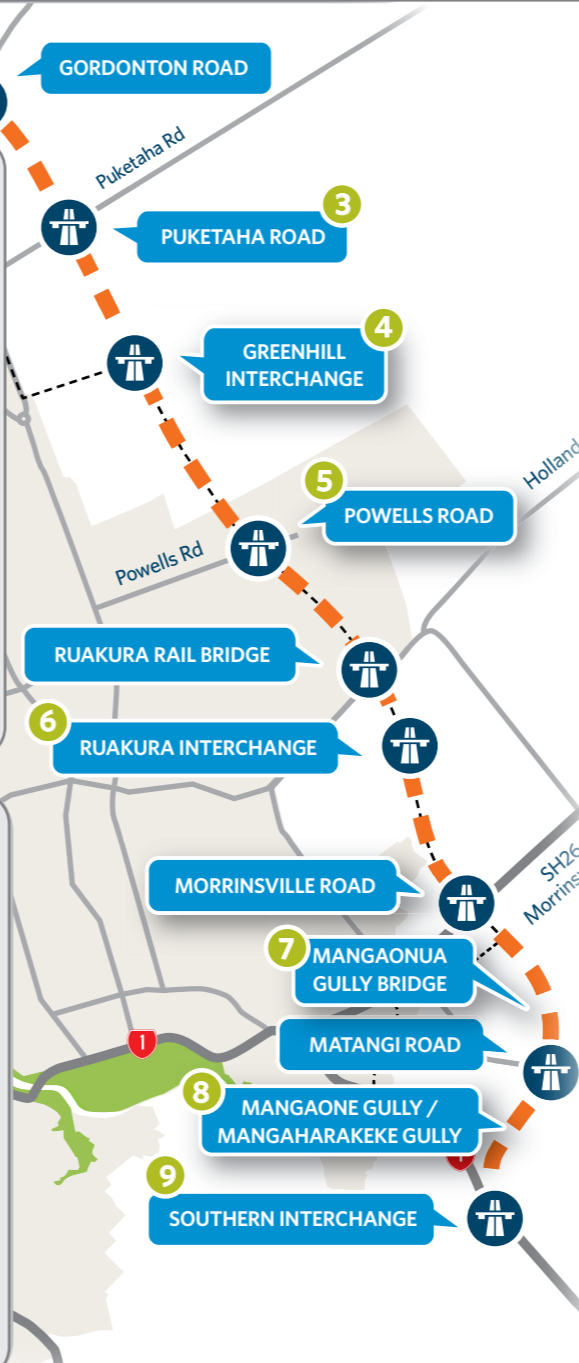


Bridge construction, drainage and landscaping is complete. Roundabout construction is nearing completion. A relocatable asphalt plant is now operating here.

## 7 Mangaonua Stream Bridge



Bridge construction is complete. Gully restoration planting is almost complete. Installation of permanent treatment swales and removal of sedimentation ponds is about to begin.



## 8 Mangaharakeke/Mangaone Stream Bridges



Both bridges are now complete. Drainage installation continues. Preload material has been placed to promote settlement at the bridge approaches.

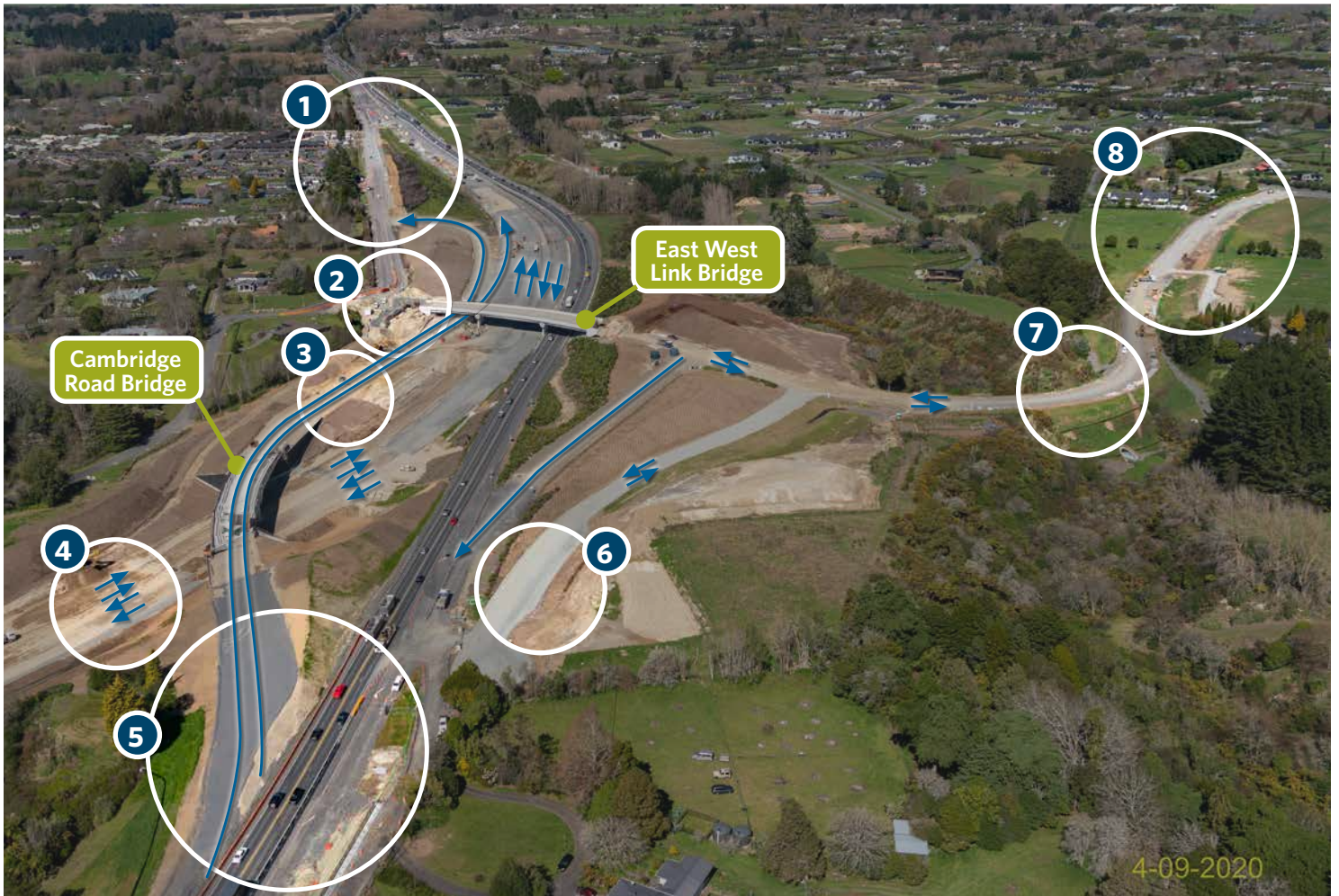
## 9 Southern Interchange



See Back Page for a guide to the various works in this area.



# Finishing the Southern Interchange



This aerial photograph of the Southern Interchange at Tamahere was taken in September 2020. The blue lines and arrows show the final traffic flows.

The numbered circles show the various work sites. Here's a guide to what's going on at each site:

**1** This old section of SH1 is being reconstructed as a local road. Final drainage, landscaping and driveway construction on the eastern side of the road will begin before Christmas. The temporary intersection onto SH1 was relocated in September.

**2** A large concrete anchor block is now in place to reinforce the retaining wall under the bridge. A raised roundabout will now be built to tie the bridge in with Cherry Lane and Bollard Road.

**3** The path for the on-ramp to the expressway will soon be excavated under the bridge, and a compacted foundation prepared for the on-ramp and exit to Cherry Lane/Bollard Road.

**4** The foundation layers for the expressway are complete right through to the Mangaone Gully Bridge. Road drainage is being installed, followed by road pavement construction and surfacing.

**5** A retaining wall has been built to provide space to widen the road on the western side. Traffic will be switched onto the widened

section to provide room to build the tie-in to the Cambridge Road Bridge (the on-ramp from the city to the expressway).

**6** This new road will provide access and parking for a cultural reserve, and a new access for five residential properties on Cambridge Road.

**7** This large fill placed over the East West Gully has now settled. Drainage has been installed along the Link Road, and road pavement is under construction.

**8** The new Link Road to Cherry Lane is under construction, along with new driveways to private properties. 300m of road pavement is ready to seal.



## Any questions?



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