

# Hamilton Section

## Traffic switch unlocks new construction zones

Switching SH1 traffic on to new lanes at Tamahere in July has unlocked new zones for the next phase of construction.

On 8 July, traffic was moved off Cambridge Road on to new lanes travelling under the East West Link Bridge. Cambridge Road has been closed north of Cherry Lane, and Cherry Lane residents no longer have direct access on to the highway.

A new, sealed intersection has been formed temporarily opposite Bollard Road to provide access from Cherry Lane, Bollard Road and the section of the old Cambridge Road in between.

Switching traffic off Cambridge Road unlocks a new phase of construction:

- constructing the full expressway lanes and tie-ins
- excavation of the expressway route through the old highway north of Cherry Lane
- transporting sand across the bridge to build the embankment for the new link road between Cherry Lane and Birchwood Lane



The photo in this illustration shows traffic flowing on the new lanes under the East West Link Bridge. These lanes will eventually become the two-lane off-ramp to the city. The illustration also shows the final location of the four-lane expressway and the on-ramp heading south from the city.

- reconstructing Cambridge Road between Cherry Lane and Bollard Road as a local road
- constructing a network of shared paths for walkers and cyclists.

A cycling bypass is in place via Newell Road because there is insufficient width on the highway to provide safe passage for cyclists.

## Crossing takes shape

The embankment ramps that will take the expressway over Powells Road are now complete.

At Powells, excavators dug down to remove a thin layer of peat where the concrete underpass will be constructed, and a large volume of fill has been

placed on top. No further work can be carried out here until soil settles under the weight of the new expressway embankments.

In approximately 3 months' time, some of the fill placed over Powells Road will be removed, and ground improvements will begin. This is necessary to prevent liquefaction in an earthquake. Finally, the concrete structure will be built.

Of the 17 structures to be built on this project, eight bridges are complete and eight more are well advanced. The Powells Road Underpass is the 17th and final structure.



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

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**Bridge beams bolted down**

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# Project Update: What's happened since May?

## 1 Resolution Drive Interchange



Beams have been placed on the bridge. Permanent wetlands to treat run-off from the road have been shaped and planted.

## 2 Horsham Downs Road Bridge



The beams have been placed and the deck poured on top. This bridge will take Horsham Downs Road over the expressway. Completion later this year will mean Horsham Downs Road can be reopened to traffic.

## 4 Powells Road Underpass



Construction of the ramps to take the expressway over the Powells Road underpass is now complete. The weight of the embankments will now cause the soils beneath to settle. Once settlement targets have been achieved, the site for underpass will be excavated, the ground strengthened and the concrete structure constructed.

## 5 Ruakura Rail Bridge



Construction is about to resume on the bridge that crosses the East Coast Main Trunk rail line and Ruakura Road. This bridge was constructed but not finished, to provide access over the rail and road by dump trucks hauling sand to build expressway embankments. With earthworks now completed, a bridge crew will resume construction of the bridge walls and barriers.

## 3 Greenhill Interchange



The new road layout for Greenhill Road is well advanced. Drainage is complete along the Pardoa Boulevard extension, and road construction to the Greenhill Interchange is under way. Greenhill Road east of the interchange will connect with Pardoa Boulevard.

## 6 Ruakura Interchange



The interchange bridge is completed. The Ruakura Road East connection to Morrinsville Road is largely complete. Design for the Ruakura Road West connection to Silverdale Road is currently being developed.

## 7 Mangaonua Stream Bridge



Steel beam installation is now complete. Construction of the concrete deck has begun.

## 8 Mangaone Gully/Mangaharakeke Gully



The last beams are about to be delivered and installed, followed progressively by concrete deck pours. Construction of both bridges is now well advanced.

## 9 Southern Interchange



The first vehicle travels over new SH1 lanes running under the East West Link Bridge on 8 July. A new temporary intersection is in place opposite Bollard Road for residents in Bollard Road, Cherry Lane and the section of Cambridge Road in between. This will remain until the project is complete.



# 1 Delivering the Waikato Expressway



## Project generates some big numbers...

The Hamilton section is a huge project - the biggest infrastructure job this region has ever seen. The works programme has recently been reset and the project team is confident of delivering a safe and lasting expressway by late 2021.

Here's what we've achieved so far:

- we've moved 4.9 million cubic metres of sand and soil
- 8 bridges are finished and 8 are well advanced
- we've completed 96,000 tests to ensure the quality of our work
- we've inducted 4045 people to work on site
- our Visitor Centre has just clocked 5000 visitors
- our staff have worked more than 2.5 million hours.



## Bridge beams bolted down

The beams for the Mangaonua Bridge - the project's longest - are now securely in place.

The four main beams are made up of 20 sections bolted together, plus 120 transverse beams and diagonal bracing. The whole structure is held together by 5000 nuts and bolts.

The next step is to bolt 600 precast concrete deck panels on top, then pour a concrete deck on top.

This bridge crosses the Mangaonua Stream, which flows from Tauwhare to the Waikato River. While the deep gully formed by the stream is mostly overgrown with invasive plants, it is home to koura, longfin eels and other 'at risk' species of native fish.

The Hamilton section project includes a significant area of gully restoration, planting and pest control in the area where the expressway crosses the stream.



## 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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