

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	State Highway 3/3A New Plymouth to Hāwera Safety Improvements project start of works event
Date	13 September 2023
Briefing number	BRI-2868

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
Linda Stewart	Director Regional Relationships, (Taranaki / Hawke's Bay / Gisborne / Manawatu)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	✓

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

13 September 2023

Hon David Parker – Minister of Transport

State Highway 3/3A New Plymouth to Hāwera Safety Improvements Project start of works event

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about the State Highway 3/3A New Plymouth to Hāwera Safety Improvements project prior to the start of works event on Friday, 15 September 2023 from 10:00am to 11:30am.

Project funding and costs

2. The estimated total project cost is \$190 million.
3. The project is being funded through the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) as part of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's Speed and Infrastructure Programme.

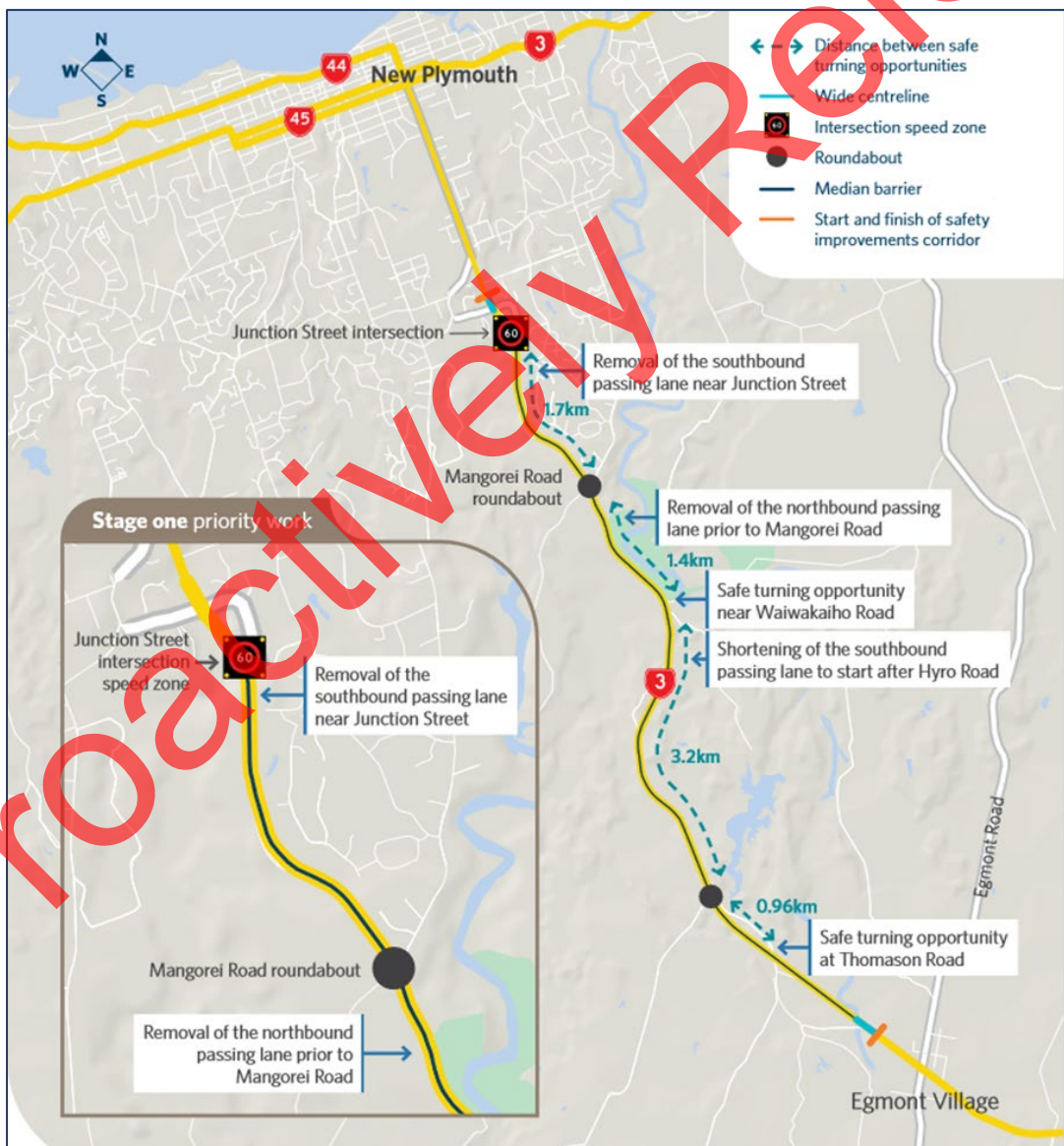
Project features

4. Key features of the New Plymouth to Hāwera Safety Improvements project include:
 - Safety improvements will be made through the installation of flexible median barriers and turnaround facilities, including roundabouts on State Highway 3, and widening of the centreline on State Highway 3A.
 - Early works, which will be underway from September 2023, include an Intersection Speed Zone (ISZ) and the installation of flexible median barriers immediately north of Junction Street, and between Junction Street and Mangorei Road in New Plymouth.
 - The 420-metre southbound passing lane at Junction Street, which is much shorter than the minimum safe overtaking length of 600 to 800 metres, will be removed as part of these works.
 - The installation of an ISZ will increase safety for all road users by detecting when traffic is approaching the highway from Junction Street or turning right into Junction Street from the highway and temporarily reducing the local State Highway 3 speed limit to 60 kilometres per hour.
 - Waka Kotahi is also planning to install six kilometres of flexible median barriers at five sites between Inglewood and Hāwera in early 2024.
 - Later in 2023, enabling works will commence in advance of an early 2024 start to construction of a roundabout at the Mangorei Road intersection.

5. Egmont Village to Hawera Section scope:



6. New Plymouth to Egmont Village Section scope:



Project benefits

7. Key benefits of the New Plymouth to Hāwera Safety Improvements project include:

- An expected reduction in deaths and serious injuries.
- Improvement in overall safety for all road users through various interventions.

Project context

8. The New Plymouth to Hāwera Safety Improvements project is a key part of the Road to Zero strategy – Speed and Infrastructure Programme in Taranaki. This programme of works will be delivered over the next six years.
9. In 2018, a business case was completed for safety improvements on State Highway 3 between New Plymouth and Hāwera. Waka Kotahi sought funding for the recommended safety improvements, prioritising the stretch of road between New Plymouth and Egmont Village due to the high safety risk in the area.
10. \$2 million dollars in design funding for a roundabout, an ISZ at Junction Street, and median barriers was announced in September 2020 and detailed design commenced following this.
11. Further safety improvements have now been investigated for the wider Egmont Village to Hāwera route, including sections of median barrier which we are expected to be delivered before June 2024. This work forms part of the median barrier acceleration programme.
12. Additionally, proposals to reduce the speed limit through some of the towns along the route have been included in the State Highway Interim Speed Management Plan.
13. In response to community concerns about noise and safety through Egmont Village, Waka Kotahi installed advanced speed warning signs at the approaches to the town in mid-2022.

Key messages

14. Key messages of the State Highway 3/3A New Plymouth to Hāwera Safety Improvement project include:
 - State Highway 3 south is a crucial link for communities travelling between Taranaki and Manawatu – between 7,500 and 15,000 vehicles travel along State Highway 3 every day.
 - Between 2018 and 2022, there were nine deaths and 40 serious injury crashes on State Highway 3 between New Plymouth and Hāwera.
 - This project is part of a vision where everyone can get to where they're going safely.
 - The project aims to reduce the occurrence of crashes that result in deaths and serious injuries.
 - The entire New Plymouth to Hāwera project will improve road user safety over more than 65 kilometres of Taranaki highway through the installation of flexible median barriers and turnaround facilities on State Highway 3 and widening of the centreline on State Highway 3A.

Other matters

15. The Egmont Village community has been very vocal about concerns relating to safety and noise through the town over the years. A petition has been presented to Waka Kotahi and there has been significant media coverage calling for a 50 kilometres per hour (kph) speed limit through the town. A proposal to reduce the current 70kph speed limit to 60kph has been proposed in the State Highway Interim Speed Management Plan.
16. While the community is happy to see safety improvement work get underway, some feel the current project doesn't go far enough to address the issues.
17. Following crashes on State Highway 3 recently, the Inglewood community has also raised concerns about safety and severance issues through their town in the media and with local MPs.

Start of works event

18. The event will be located at Mangorei School, 502 Mangorei Road, New Plymouth.
19. Glen Bennett, MP for New Plymouth, is attending on your behalf.
20. Speeches and a prizegiving for the 'Draw your Dream Roundabout' competition will take place.

Key attendees to acknowledge

21. The key attendees at the start of works event include the following:
 - Stratford District Mayor, Neil Volske
 - South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon
 - District and regional councillors
 - Representatives from Te Atiawa and Ngāti Tawhirikura
 - Representatives from WSP and Downer

Media

22. We expect some local media interest.
23. Reporting in 2023 has largely revolved around the condition of Taranaki roads and potholes, and funding in the region.

It is recommended that you:

- 24. Note the contents of this briefing.
- 25. Forward this briefing to MP Glen Bennett



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Linda Stewart

Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu)

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Hon David Parker, Minister of Transport

Date: 2023

Proactively Released