

19 January 2023

Out of
Scope

REF: OIA-11814

Dear **Out**

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your call to our contact centre on 9 January 2023 requesting information regarding the traffic lights at the roundabout at Cambridge Road and Cobham Drive (SH1C), Hillcrest, Hamilton. Your call was logged as a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Each of your questions has been answered in turn.

When the application was put forward

The performance of this intersection and the adjacent intersection at SH1 and SH26 has been under investigation since 2004. Design and construction funding was requested and obtained in early 2015

When funding was approved

While funding was approved in 2015, construction was not able to begin on this project until the interchange at Cobham Drive (SH1C) and Wairere Drive was completed. This is because the demand for the right-turn-out movement from Cambridge Road, which is closed due to this upgrade, is expected to be transferred to the SH1C Cobham Drive/Wairere Drive interchange.

Why the project is still going ahead

High traffic demand along Cobham Drive (SH1C) has not ceased with the opening of the Hamilton section of the Waikato Expressway. SH1C is the main access into Hamilton city from the south and south-east. Even with the completion of the Hamilton Section, its function remains as the main access to the CBD, hospital and western industrial area from the south-east (Cambridge, Taupo etc.) and the traffic volumes that justified improvements to this intersection in 2015 still presently exist.

For example, in March 2015 the peak hour eastbound count on SH1C was 1644. This was the average of the peak weekday counts taken over one week. And following the opening of the Hamilton section, a further traffic count on Wednesday 14 September 2022 showed that the peak hour SH1C eastbound count was 1650.

We also expect traffic volumes to increase on this route as the population of Hamilton continues to grow – more so with the nearby development of Peacockes. Other benefits of the upgrade will provide improved safety and access for cyclists and pedestrians, and the ability to discourage traffic using Cambridge Road as a “link road” to and from Wairere Drive.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact us by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kinvig', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Kinvig

National Manager, Infrastructure Delivery