

The Causeway Alliance is raising and widening 4.8 km of Auckland's Northwestern motorway and cycleway between Great North Road and the Whau River Bridge, near Te Atatu. The work is being done to prevent flooding and provide additional lanes for when the Waterview Tunnels open in early 2017.



36 scruffy domes



New LED cycleway lights

Behind the scenes

With so much happening on the ground along the Causeway it's easy to forget about the preparation also taking place under and above road-level.

To give you an insight, behind the scenes of the project, here are some facts and figures of the 4.8km of work:

- 147 cycleway lights and 189 motorway lights. Each will be fitted with more efficient LED bulbs rather than the existing High Pressure Sodium bulbs.
- 36 domed grills or scruffy domes. These manhole covers are made of galvanised steel and are used to prevent large debris entering the stormwater system while providing access for any maintenance that may be required.
- 18 underground stormwater treatment devices. Rain and water from the motorway and surrounding areas are directed through drainage channels to these large concrete structures. As the water travels it picks up dust, dirt and grime which are then filtered by the treatment device before it enters our waterways.
- 22,000V cable to supply power from the Te Atatu substation to the northern portal of the Waterview Tunnel
- 11,000V cable to supply the 4 transformers throughout the project with power
- 400V cables to provide power for lighting and the 23 intelligent transportation systems control cabinets
- Over 5km of fibre optic cable running along the length of the project to support broadband and telecom connectivity to West Auckland.



Underground stormwater treatment device being installed

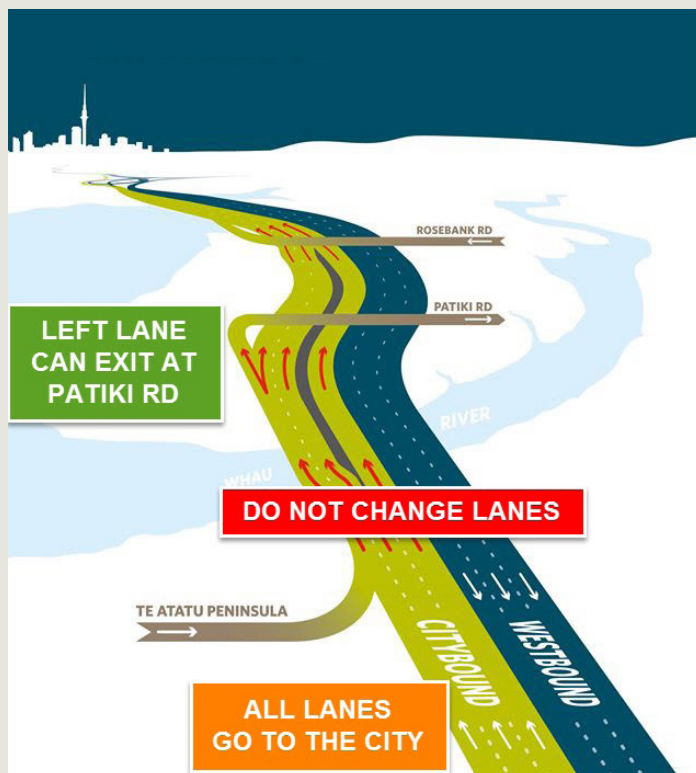
Stay in your lane

As you will have noticed there have been some lane layout changes along the Northwestern motorway between Te Atatu and Rosebank Roads. Thank you for your patience, particularly on Monday 2 March when traffic was heavy as drivers familiarised themselves with the new lane layout.

There are several more lane changes which will happen along the Causeway over the next two years which will be similar to the recent layout change. It is important to know that we are not reducing any lanes, just moving them around to create safe working space so the motorway can continue to be raised and widened.

The important things to note for a safe journey through are;

- Choose your correct lane well in advance
- Avoid sudden lane changes
- Stay in your lane



GULL RESCUE

This wee guy was rescued from the mud flats of Te Atatu Boat Club by three of our crew working nearby. The team noticed that the juvenile black backed gull could barely keep his head up and upon closer inspection he looked quite unwell. The gull let the rescuers approach and put him in a large cardboard box. He was then delivered to a bird rehabilitation centre and is said to be making a full recovery.



Meet Mike

In keeping with our behind the scenes theme, Mike Elliot is the Causeway Alliance's Earthworks Manager, and is responsible for a lot of the stuff that happens underneath the road surface. A kiwi returning home, Mike moved to Auckland from Sydney and the UK and has been part of the project team for the past two years.

What does a typical day on the causeway look like for you?

Pretty busy. I have a team of five engineers reporting to me and we work closely with the crews, superintendents, foremen and geotechnical engineers to manage the ground improvements and earthworks for the project. We are responsible for building a solid foundation, often in areas where there are soft soils and reclaimed marine areas, so the pavement, services, and structural teams can follow and deliver a quality product.

My particular focus areas are safety, quality, environment, cost control and the construction programme. I need to be looking at the earthworks we need to be doing three, six and twelve months from now and making sure everything is in place so people can do their jobs effectively.

What do you enjoy about construction?

Being able to look back on projects that you've been a part of and helped to create is hugely rewarding. When living in the UK I worked on a range of projects from the Royal Ascot Grandstand to the Aquatic Centre for the London Olympics. It's great to be part of something from day one and see it through to completion.

What do you do in your time off?

With two young daughters aged two and four I don't get much spare time!

More information

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