

Process and indicative timeframes

WHEN	WHAT HAPPENS
March 2012	Project team finish investigation phase.
April/May 2012	Public Information Day to present detailed information on the Hamilton Section and provide an opportunity for input prior to lodgement of resource consents and any alterations to the designation.
June/July 2012	The NZTA lodges applications for resource consent and any alterations to the designation.
Late 2012	Waikato District Council, Hamilton City Council and Waikato Regional Council publicly notify the applications. Opportunity for the public to make submissions.
2012-2013	Hearing of resource consents and potential alterations to the designation.

These timeframes are subject to change as the investigations and consultation with our stakeholders progress.



For more information

For further information online visit:
www.nzta.govt.nz/rons
www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/waikato-expressway

Our contact details

For enquiries or information regarding the Hamilton Section of the Waikato Expressway.

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Waikato Expressway



Hamilton Section

Update
December 2011

Quick facts

LOCATION:	The Hamilton Section commences at the Lake Road interchange connection with the Ngaruawahia Section in the north and runs southward, to the east of Hamilton, connecting to the existing Tamahere interchange south of Hillcrest.
CURRENT STAGE OF WORK:	Investigation and Design
ESTIMATED PROJECT VALUE:	\$890 million
LENGTH OF SECTION:	21.8km
TARGET COMPLETION DATE:	2019
(CONSTRUCTION)	

Update on progress

Since the Hamilton Section information days in February 2011, the project team has been busy progressing the secondary investigation phase of work. The investigations include detailed assessment of planning, traffic, road network connectivity, geotechnical, stormwater, environmental and cultural issues.

During this phase of work, the project team has identified a number of areas where changes to the current design of the Hamilton Section may be appropriate. Some of these changes are small, affecting individual landowners, while others are more significant and will be of interest to a wider group of people.

We have provided a brief outline of each of the more significant changes in this newsletter. We have also been meeting with individual landowners to discuss local changes that have individual property effects.

In the first half of next year, we will return to the community with information days where we will present detail on noise mitigation, landscape design, the road profile, junction layouts and any planned changes to the designation. These information days will provide you with the opportunity to have a say before we finalise the resource consent applications and alterations to the designation.



Project Benefits

When complete the Waikato Expressway will be the key strategic transport corridor for the Waikato region, connecting Auckland to the agricultural and business centres of Waikato and Bay of Plenty. The Expressway will improve economic growth and productivity through more efficient movement of people and freight.

Other benefits of the Waikato Expressway include:

- reducing travel times between Auckland and Tirau by 35 minutes
- reducing significantly the number of fatal and serious injury crashes
- reducing fuel costs
- reducing traffic congestion within smaller communities like Huntly, Ngaruawahia and Cambridge
- increasing the highway's capacity and passing opportunities.

The Hamilton Section will:

- connect the Ngaruawahia Section of the Expressway, due for completion in 2014, to the existing Tamahere Interchange
- reduce traffic congestion and improve safety on Hamilton's local road network by significantly reducing the volume of through traffic including trucks.

This project is part of the larger Waikato Expressway programme of work. The Waikato Expressway is one of seven Roads of National Significance for New Zealand. When completed it will be 102 km long, running from the Bombay Hills to south of Cambridge.

Significant changes to the Hamilton Section

The significant changes being considered by the project team are presented below from north to south.

1 Resolution Drive interchange and local road connectivity

At our first Open Day in February this year, we signalled the possibility of a new interchange at the point where the Expressway intersects with the extension of Resolution Drive. Initially we signalled a 'half-diamond' interchange here - with north facing ramps only. Subsequent investigations have indicated that a full diamond interchange makes sense here together with a connection through to Horsham Downs Road (see diagram 1).

Without this arrangement residents in the Horsham Downs area would need to travel north to the Gordonton Road interchange (Ngaruawahia Section) or south to Greenhill Road interchange to gain full access to the Expressway. Hamilton residents in the Rototuna area would also benefit from a more convenient access to the Expressway for journeys to and from the south.

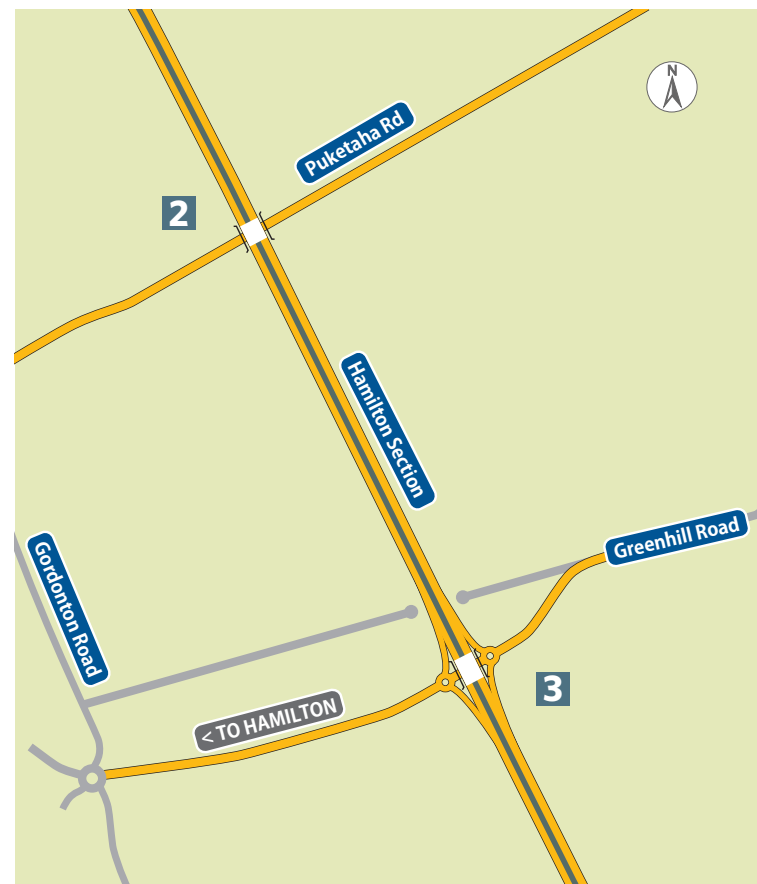
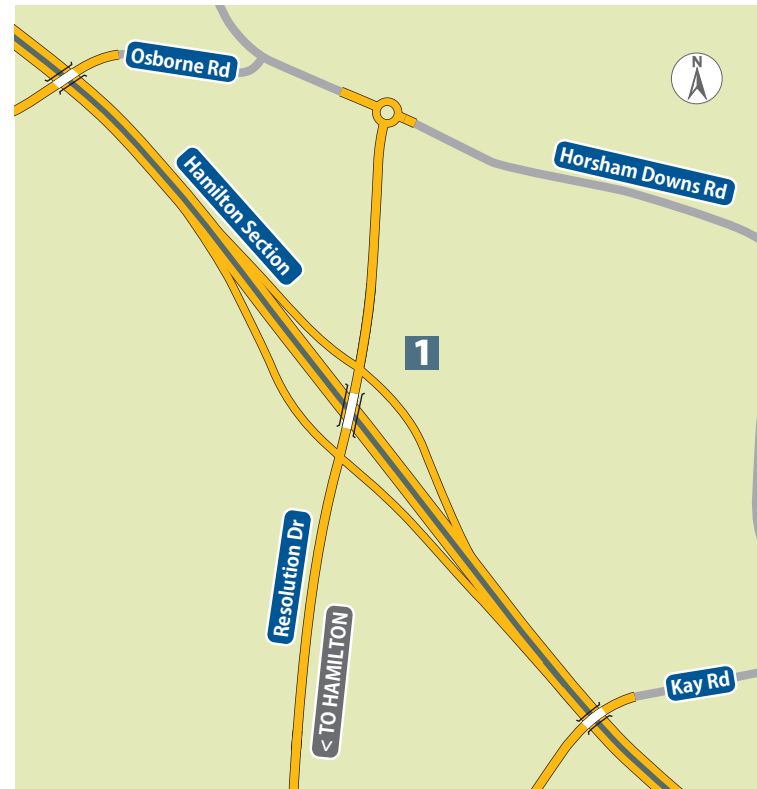
Consideration is also being given to the closure of Osborne Road to vehicles. A pedestrian and cyclist bridge would likely be provided, in recognition of the existing well-used pedestrian and cyclist path along Osborne Road. The closure of Osborne Road would only occur if Resolution Drive was extended through to Horsham Downs Road.

2 Puketaha Road crossing

The current designation provides for Puketaha Road to be carried over the Expressway on an overbridge. Investigations over the past year have indicated that there are a number of potential benefits associated with switching this arrangement around so that the Expressway is carried over Puketaha Road (see diagram 2). The key advantage is that Puketaha Road would remain at the existing grade and therefore existing property accesses would not have to be changed.

3 Greenhill Road interchange

The current designation links the Greenhill Interchange overbridge back into Greenhill Road on both sides of the Expressway. This has been revised so that the Greenhill Interchange now links more directly into the new Hamilton City Wairere Drive extension roundabout (see diagram 3). The project team is also considering changing the arrangement of the interchange so that the Expressway goes over Greenhill Road (currently the designation provides for the Expressway to go under Greenhill Road).



4 Ruakura interchange

At our previous information day in February 2011, we signalled the possibility of a new interchange at Ruakura. The interchange would service the inland port development that has been proposed by Tainui Group Holdings. This aspect of the project is still under investigation.

5 Morrinsville Road/SH26 interchange - south - facing ramps

The current designation provides for a 'half-diamond' interchange at Morrinsville Road. This means that traffic can travel to and from the north on the Expressway from Morrinsville Road. During the investigations and also in response to feedback received at the February information days, the project team is now considering a 'full-diamond' interchange at Morrinsville Road. This would mean that traffic will also be able to travel to and from the south on the Expressway from Morrinsville Road.

Diagram 5 gives an indication of how the interchange will work. As shown, roundabouts (where the interchange ramps meet Morrinsville Road) are being considered as part of the design.

Adding south-facing ramps to the interchange will require additional land and also require widening of the Mangaonua Stream Bridge. Discussions with affected landowners are currently underway.

The potential advantage of a full-diamond interchange at this point is that it will provide an alternative entry point into the southern parts of the City for traffic approaching from the south.

6 Hamilton southern interchange

A public information day has recently been held regarding changes to the Hamilton Southern Interchange. If you missed the information day and would like to see the latest plans, the information day posters are available on the Hamilton Section website:

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/hamilton/publications.html>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us using the contact details provided overleaf.

