

# Hamilton Section Frequently Asked Questions

## Will Resolution Drive be extended to Horsham Downs Road as part of the Hamilton Section?

The Transport Agency has determined that the Expressway scope of work will not include an extension of Resolution Drive through to Horsham Downs Road. The reason for this is that investigations have determined that this extension would largely provide for local traffic and therefore it is considered to be a matter for the relevant local authority to pursue. However, subject to agreement with the Waikato District Council, an extension of Resolution Drive to Horsham Downs road could be added to the project scope.

## What is being done to address any noise impacts?

The noise assessment undertaken to date reveals that there are few properties along the route that will be subject to noise exceeding the Guidelines. Where this does occur, (provided the dwelling was in place at the time of the designation), the Transport Agency will install appropriate mitigation measures to reduce the noise impact. Mitigation measures could include walls, bunds, and/or a quieter road surface. Noise assessments will be carried out prior to and during construction and at completion of the project.

## What is being done to reduce the environmental impact of the road?

The Transport Agency is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment.

## Visual impact

Landscaping and planting will be used to mitigate any visual effects of the new road and create a pleasant environment for both road users and others.

- This landscaping and planting can:
- Improve the visual appearance of the Expressway
  - Assist with ecological enhancement
  - Tie the Expressway into local features of the environment

## Environmental measures

Careful consideration is given to native wildlife and habitats in order to minimise impact and disruption. The gully environments represent the most sensitive ecological area crossed by the project, and also have high associated cultural value for Tangata Whenua. Both gullies will be bridged, with piers placed to avoid the waterways. Consideration is also being given to what mitigation measures may be available to enhance the ecology of these gully environments as part of the project. Our project team has researched the presence and activity of Long-Tailed Bats (Pekapeka) in the vicinity of the Expressway. This research has been used to develop measures to minimise the impacts of the Expressway construction on the bats - particularly the bat population within the gullies.

## What is being done to ensure archaeological sites of significance are identified and measures are in place to protect them?

There are two recorded sites directly affected by the project. The first is at the northern end around Lake Road and the second is near the Southern Interchange. Both sites provide evidence of pre-historic horticultural activity. The Transport Agency will be working closely with the NZ Historic Places Trust to ensure that appropriate investigation and any required mitigation is carried out to address the effects on these historic features.

## What provisions for walking and cycling are there on the Hamilton Section?

There will be no dedicated provisions for walking and cycling along the Hamilton Section of the Expressway. There will be a 2.5 metre wide shoulder for those cyclists who wish to use the Expressway and walking and cycling connections will be provided at local road overbridges.

Walking and cycling provisions will be provided at Tamahere to improve the connection between the east and west sides of the community. This includes a

walking and cycling connection over the southern interchange at Cherry Lane and the extension of a walking and cycling path between Bollard Road and Tauwhare Road to connect with the crossing underneath the existing Tamahere Interchange. The Transport Agency will also provide a dedicated walking and cycling path along Cambridge Road between Cherry Lane and the City.

## What is being done to address any air quality or vibration issues related to the construction of the Hamilton Section or once it is open?

Assessments undertaken to date do not identify any significant issues around air quality or vibration. A Construction noise and vibration Management Plan will be prepared and implemented to minimise any adverse effects of construction activities.

## How will stormwater be managed?

Storm water management is designed to:

- Minimise additional discharge into streams and drains
- Treat all road water run-off before release beyond the Expressway reserve

The current design consists of multiple stormwater wetlands placed along the length of the route. These wetlands will capture run-off, remove sediment and noxious materials and enable the controlled release of the water back into streams, drains or the City stormwater system. A high level of treatment will be achieved.

For more information online visit:

[www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/waikato-expressway](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/waikato-expressway)

[www.facebook.com/waikatoexpressway](https://www.facebook.com/waikatoexpressway)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE HAMILTON SECTION VISIT US ON:



New Zealand Government

## Our contact details

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

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# Waikato Expressway

## 1 Hamilton Section

Update No.6  
October 2013

# Hamilton Section consent applications have been lodged

The Hamilton Section of the Waikato Expressway has reached a significant milestone with the NZ Transport Agency having lodged applications for resource consents and alterations to the designation for the project.

The lodgement on 30 September 2013 is the culmination of three years of investigation, design and consultation with the community and key stakeholders. It is the start of the formal statutory process where you will have the opportunity to make submissions on the project to the consenting authorities.

Since the route was designated in 2005 there has been significant development in and around Hamilton City, including development of the Rototuna and Tamahere Structure Plans, potential Ruakura Structure Plan and the development of significant roading projects, including the Hamilton Ring Road.

The project team has made detailed assessments of these planning provisions and developments; along with the assessment of environmental, geotechnical and cultural issues linked to the Hamilton Section of the Expressway. This work includes the assessments of traffic flows and connectivity with local roads, with the intent of providing one integrated network for road users.

The assessments have been carried out in collaboration with Hamilton City Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council and in close consultation with Waikato Tainui, community groups, landowners and developers.

## Community consultation - your feedback to date

A series of public information days have been held since February 2011 to invite feedback on the proposed form of the Hamilton Section and to inform of possible changes to the Expressway design and connectivity. The first information day was held in February 2011.

This was followed by information days in October 2011 and September 2012 where further connectivity options in the Tamahere and Ruakura areas were explored. Following feedback on these proposals a further three public information days were held in May 2013 to present the preferred connection options, with particular focus on connectivity at Horsham Downs, Ruakura and Tamahere.

The team has also carried out targeted consultation with affected communities, held meetings with individual landowners and had

detailed discussions with the Hamilton City and Waikato District Councils. We have also been working closely with local iwi on issues of concern, with a particular focus on the three gully crossings between Morrinsville Road and Tamahere.

Following these investigations and consultation, we are now in a position to lodge statutory applications for resource consents and alterations to the designation. Everybody will have the opportunity to be a submitter through the formal statutory process.

**Our applications for resource consents and alterations to the designation incorporate the results of these investigations and consultation.**

## 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 late 2013, 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.

## Project overview

The Hamilton section commences at the Lake Road Interchange with the Ngaruawahia section in the north. It then runs south, to the east of Hamilton, connecting to the existing Tamahere Interchange just south of Hillcrest. Interchanges on the 21.8km section are provided at Lake Road, Resolution Drive, Greenhill Road, Ruakura, and at Cherry Lane, Tamahere. The project also includes two large bridges over the Mangaone and Mangaonua stream gullies.

### East-West Link

As part of the project investigations, Waikato District Council and the Transport Agency have confirmed the need for a new roading link from the Hamilton Southern Interchange into Tamahere, referred to as the "East West Link Road".

This link road will connect the Hamilton Southern Interchange with Birchwood Lane, about 600 metres south of its intersection with Newell Road. The East West Link Road will provide connectivity for the residents of Cherry Lane and Bollard Road with the western Tamahere area, including Tamahere School and the recently rezoned future business area adjacent to Devine Road.

The East West Link Road and the Hamilton Section will be completed at the same time. Statutory applications for the East West Link Road will be publicly notified at the same time as the Hamilton Section and submissions on both projects will be heard in the same overall hearing process in early 2014.

## Update on Ruakura

Since the Public Information Days in May 2013 Tainui Group Holdings have lodged a private plan change request for the Ruakura Development with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). This application has been accepted by the Minister for the Environment, meaning that the Plan Change request will be heard and considered by an Independent Board of Inquiry. In view of this development the Transport Agency is not including an alteration of designation for the proposed Ruakura Interchange in its current applications. The Transport Agency will however lodge this once the Board of Inquiry process on the Ruakura Development Plan Change is further advanced - probably in the latter half of 2014.

## Update for Percival, Powells and Ryburn Roads

At the Public Information Days in May 2013, the plan presented by the Transport Agency was to close Powells and Ryburn Roads at the Expressway, and provide an alternative link into the City for affected residents via a connection under the Expressway at Percival Road. As with the Ruakura Interchange, the decision has been made to reconsider this alteration to the designation once the Board of Inquiry process is further advanced.

## Process and indicative timeframes

The indicative programme for the statutory process is as follows:

When	What's happening...
September 2013	Applications lodged with the Councils
October 2013	Councils request further information if necessary
November 2013	Public notification and opportunity to submit on the applications
December to February 2014	Preparation for hearings
February/March 2014	Public Hearing of Statutory Applications

### How to be involved in the process

We expect that the three councils (Waikato District, Hamilton City and Waikato Region) will notify the applications for the Hamilton Section in early November. Notice will be served to all those who are directly affected, and the general public will be notified through local newspapers and on the Council websites. You will then be able to make submissions on the project to the relevant authorities.

## Interim effect of designation on directly affected land

If your property is affected by the designation, the affected property is subject to s178 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). This section states that once a requiring authority (NZTA) has given notice of a requirement for a designation to a territorial authority (WDC and HCC) then the landowner is unable to do anything that would prevent or hinder the public work, project, or work to which the designation relates without written approval of the requiring authority (NZTA). If you need any further information on this issue please contact us using the contact details overleaf.

