



## Waikato Expressway

### Hamilton Section

Update No.7  
November 2014

## Resource consents issued

There has been a lot of progress over the past twelve months and the 21.8km Hamilton Section of the Waikato Expressway has reached some significant milestones.

Following a joint public hearing held in May - June 2014, the NZ Transport Agency obtained Waikato Regional Council resource consents for the project, and approval on a number of alterations to the original Hamilton City Council (HCC) and Waikato District Council (WDC) designations.

The alterations to the HCC and WDC designations include the addition of an interchange at Horsham Downs and significant changes to the Southern Interchange at Tamahere.

The alterations are subject to two appeals lodged with the Environment Court and the Transport Agency is currently working through those appeals with the respective parties.

The alterations to the designation did not include the proposed Ruakura Interchange which is subject to a separate Notice of Requirement and resource consent applications as noted below.

As part of these processes, there are a number of conditions that require the Transport Agency to monitor and address any potentially adverse environmental effects caused by the project. Some of the effects addressed by the conditions include: noise, bats, landscape, construction and effects on groundwater.

## Improved Expressway connections at Hamilton

Improved connectivity between the Waikato Expressway and local roads via the Ruakura Interchange to take account of proposed development in the area is the driver for the Transport Agency's request to alter the designation for this part of the Hamilton Section.

The change is to take account of HCC's Ruakura Structure Plan and anticipated industrial development, including Tainui Group Holdings' proposed Inland Port.

Submissions on the Notice of Requirement for the alteration to the designation closed on 22 October, with a hearing before commissioners to follow in the near future.

The proposed changes to the designation will allow direct links from areas anticipated for development and the Expressway, close part of the existing Ruakura Road either side of the Expressway, and create a link to State Highway 26 via the relocated and upgraded Ruakura Road.

The alteration sees the widening of the existing designations to accommodate a full diamond interchange at Ruakura, connecting roundabouts and a stormwater wetland.

If the Notice of Requirements are confirmed and the Ruakura Interchange constructed, then the currently designated north facing ramps at State Highway 26 (Morrinsville Road) would no longer be needed.



## 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 up to 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, 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.



For more information

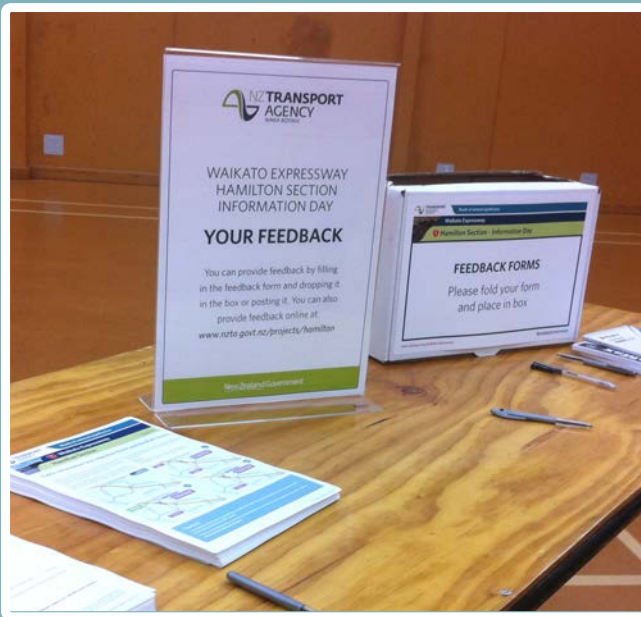
For further information online visit:  
[www.nzta.govt.nz/waikatoexpressway](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/waikatoexpressway)

## Community shares views

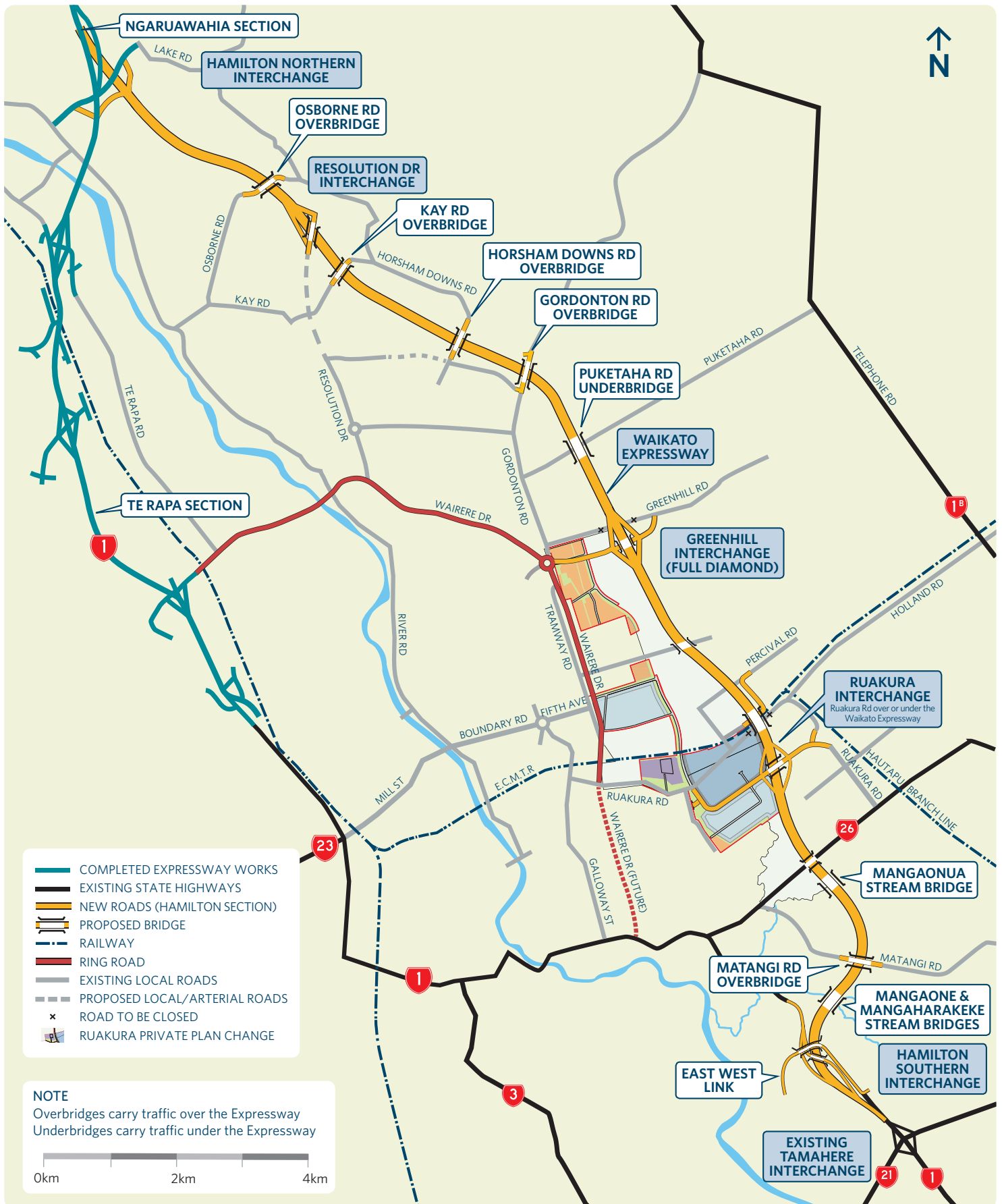
A public information day was held at the Horsham Downs Community Hall in August where options on possible connections to the Expressway at Resolution Drive were presented and feedback sought.

The information day was well attended by the wider community and approximately 100 written feedback responses were received.

The Transport Agency is currently reviewing the feedback and discussing options with HCC and WDC. The next step will be to present information to the community on the option to be pursued, before seeking the necessary approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991. The Transport Agency would like to thank the community for their attendance and the formal and informal feedback provided.



# Hamilton Section



## Expressway overview

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.

### Sections update:

- Longswamp - Secondary investigation, target opening 2018
- Rangiriri - Under construction, opens late 2016
- Huntly - Tender for design and construction, target opening 2019
- Ngaruawahia - Opened December 2013
- Te Rapa - Opened December 2012
- Hamilton - Specimen design, target opening 2019
- Cambridge - Under construction, opens late 2016.

## What's happening next?

The current programme for the development and implementation of the Hamilton Section is as follows:

NOV 2014	Call for Statement of Interest and Ability for the construction of Hamilton Section
DEC 2014	Indicative hearing date for the Ruakura Interchange
DEC 2014	Statements of Interest and Ability submitted for evaluation
EARLY 2015	If required, Notice of Requirement submitted for Resolution Drive connection to the Expressway and Horsham Downs
EARLY 2015	Notice of Requirement submitted for the SH26/Ruakura Rd Roundabout
MAR 2015	Shortlist of Tenderers confirmed
MAR 2015	Tenders called for the construction of the Hamilton Section
OCT 2015	Tender Award
2016	Construction due to commence in 2016, with completion targeted for 2019

## State Highway 26/Ruakura Road roundabout

The Transport Agency is currently investigating the option of establishing a roundabout at the intersection of Morrinsville (SH26), Ruakura and Lisette roads. The rationale for changing the intersection layout is to reduce the number of crashes that occur at this intersection, which have included two fatalities in recent times.

The upgrading of the intersection is a separate project to the Expressway as it specifically relates to addressing an existing safety issue. However, there are synergies in constructing the roundabout as part of the construction of the Expressway, hence the reason for investigating the roundabout at this time. Discussions with affected landowners are underway and a Notice of Requirement to alter the existing designation for SH26 will be lodged in due course.

## Meet the Project Manager

The lure of project managing the Hamilton section of the Waikato Expressway was a challenge that Jo Wilton could not refuse.



Jo is the newest recruit in the Project Services team at the Hamilton Office and has been with the Transport Agency since mid-2014.

Jo's background is Contract Management having spent 14 years with Downer NZ Ltd as a Project Manager in Auckland working on projects such as Browns Bay Sewer Tunnel, SH16 Taupaki Intersection Improvements, and North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades, before she relocated to Taupo to be involved in the Wairakei Investment programme with Contact Energy (Te Mihi Power station and all associated works).

She enjoys taking a concept and seeing it through all phases to end use and is looking forward to working closely with contractors and consultants in a competitive alliance to ensure this project progresses as planned and is open by 2019.

Jo says the 21.8 km Hamilton section provides plenty of challenges along with good opportunities to consult with iwi and the local community.

"Working with a great team and taking the time to build good relationships with stakeholders has already had a positive influence on the development of the project".

When not busy in her role as Senior Project Manager for the Transport Agency, Jo is kept busy managing her two young children, other family interests and playing interclub squash.

## Our contact details

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

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