

Construction programme and timing

Construction of the 11.4km Ngaruawahia Section is now well advanced and, all going well, is on target to be open for traffic by mid to late 2013.

The focus for Fletcher Construction over the summer months is the completion of the bulk earthworks and drainage, so that pavement can begin to be laid, and the continued construction of the bridge structures. The anticipated completion dates of the bridges are:

BRIDGE DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE
Gordonton Road	April 2013
Kainui Road	Completed October 2012
Lake Road	June 2013
River Road	December 2012
Waikato River	June 2013

Landscape planting, including specific planting to enhance identified ecological areas along the alignment, will commence in the autumn planting season.

The key elements of the construction programme are:

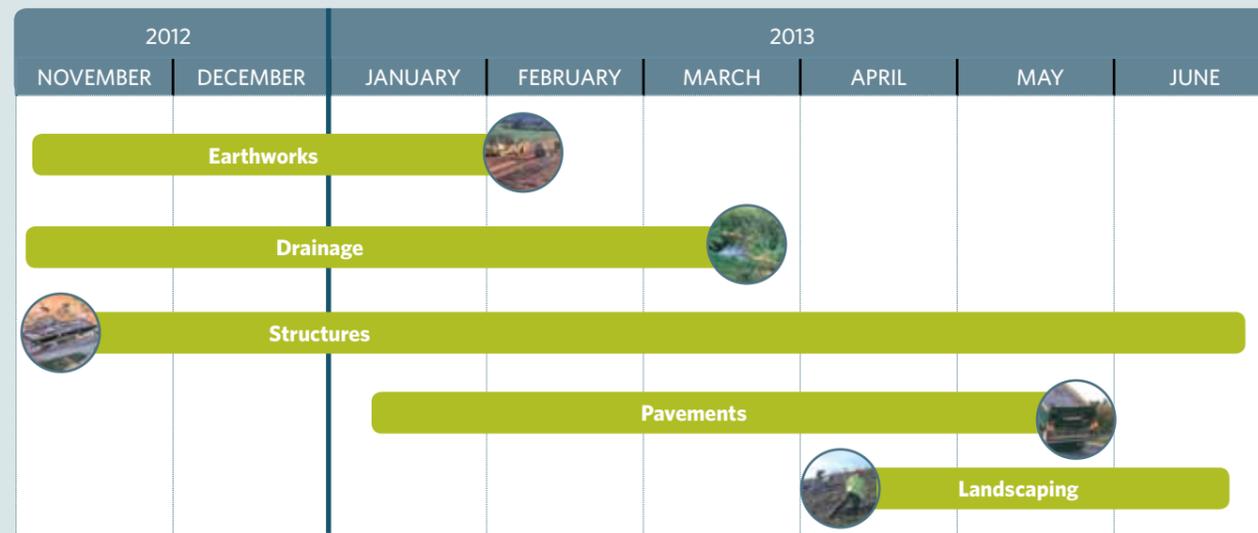
Earthworks: Involves moving 1.4 million cubic metres of earth to form the embankments for the bridge abutments and main carriageway.

Drainage: The treatment of stormwater runoff via a combination of vegetated swales, constructed wetlands and retention areas before discharge to waterways.

Structures: Building seven new bridges.

Pavements: After laying a sand and gravel base, chipseal and asphalt is laid to create a new road surface.

Landscaping: Linking new planting with existing native fauna and mitigating the effects of the expressway.



For more information

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

Or follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/waikatoexpressway

Christmas close down

The contractor (Fletcher Construction) will be closing down the construction site for Christmas on Monday December 24. There will still be some traffic management in place over the Christmas break so please take care driving through the site. Work will recommence again on Thursday January 3.

The NZ Transport Agency and Fletcher Construction would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas break.

Contact Details

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Waikato Expressway

Ngaruawahia Section

What has happened in the last six months?

Although it has been a wet winter, the contractor (Fletcher Construction) has been able to make good progress on the \$248 million Ngaruawahia Section.

Approximately 200,000 million cubic metres of sand and soil was shifted to construct haul roads, road embankments and to assist with surcharging (settlement) in peat areas. The winter earthworks proved to be a full time job for the environmental team who were tasked with ensuring that site access points remained clean and no dirty water was released into the waterways.

Settlement monitoring was undertaken at the various peat surcharging locations along the project alignment. This monitoring will continue until the testing shows that the material underneath has ceased to move.

Permanent drainage continued to be installed throughout the project. Thirteen cross culverts stretching over 1,037m in length were laid, along with the installation of storm water treatment devices such as grassed swale drains.

Construction continued at the seven bridge sites. Work undertaken included:

- Completion of eleven out of fourteen bridge embankments.
- Construction of the abutments and commencement of the 'V' piers for the Waikato River Bridge.
- Installation of stone columns for the future Hamilton Section underpass at Lake Road. Stone columns are produced by vibro compaction using water to create a hole in the ground and forcing metal into the hole which minimises future risk of liquefaction in an earthquake event.
- Construction of the Mechanically Stabilised Earthwalls (MSE) for the Lake Road overbridges. The MSE have been constructed using containers. The containers allow for sand and geogrid to be placed hard up against them to enable a straight vertical face for the wall.
- Bridge piling.
- Commencement of the River Road overbridge and completion of the Kainui Road overbridge structures.

Kainui Road bridge opens to public

A significant milestone was reached in early October when the Kainui Road overbridge was opened by Waikato District Council Mayor, Allan Sanson, to the public, following a blessing by local iwi. The overbridge is the first of seven bridge structures to be completed on the Ngaruawahia Section.

Waikato Expressway Principal Project Manager, Richard Young, says the realignment of Kainui Road has seen the road surface raised about 3.6 metres from its previous level. The Kainui Road overbridge itself is a concrete structure, spanning 50 metres over the alignment of the future Expressway. During construction of the overbridge, 105 tonnes of reinforcing steel and 1430 cubic metres of concrete were used.

"The next stage of work is to dig down approximately 4 metres from the old road level underneath the bridge," says Mr Young. "This excavation will provide a total clearance of about 6 metres to make way for the construction of the future Expressway road which will pass underneath the bridge."



Cutting the ribbon at the opening of the new Kainui Road over bridge is Waikato District Council Mayor, Allan Sanson.

Te Awa Walkway

The Te Awa Walkway along the Waikato riverbank continues to remain open to the public.

A viewing area alongside the walkway has now been installed to allow the public to get a bird's eye view of the construction of the Waikato River Bridge. A notice board has also been positioned to provide information about the Ngaruawahia Section. Photos of various areas that are not accessible to the public can be viewed from this location.





Aerial view of Ngaruawahia Section construction progress – October 2012

Much of the Ngaruawahia Section project is generally not visible to the public as it crosses farmland and greenfield areas. The aerial views below allow you to see how the new expressway is taking shape.



1 Gordonton Road (SH1B) Interchange looking south



2 Kainui Road Overbridge - Kerie Road top of picture



3 Ngaruawahia Section, near Lake Areare alignment heading north



4 Lake Road Interchange looking north



5 Ngaruawahia Section alignment and sand quarry between River Road and Lake Road



6 Waikato River crossing looking downstream

What's happening on the local roads?

Short term traffic management closures will be installed at various times along all local roads. Speed restrictions will be in place so caution will be required. Your patience with respect to any disruptions is appreciated. The following closure programme dates specified may be subject to change due to inclement weather or other influencing factors.

ROAD	CLOSURE PROGRAMME
Gordonton Road - (SH1B)	Will remain open to traffic in both directions at all times. Speed restrictions are in place.
Kainui Road	Is now open to traffic in both directions.
Kerie Road	Closed from Kainui Road to approximately 300m north of the intersection from November 2012 to December 2012. Access into private properties will be maintained at all times.
Howard Road	Permanently closed from October 2012 between Driver Road and Rogers Road.
Lake Road	Will remain open to traffic in both directions at all times. The existing traffic lights will remain operational throughout the construction period.
River Road	Will remain open to traffic in both directions at all times. A temporary roundabout has been installed until December 2012 at the intersection of Horotiu Bridge Road and River Road to assist traffic flow along River Road during the construction of the new River Road overbridge.

Construction progress online

NZTA have installed a time-lapse camera at the Waikato River to capture the construction of the 142 metre long bridge. The bridge will use 630 tonnes of reinforcing steel, 700 tonnes of structural steel and 2,250 cubic metres of concrete.

It will be constructed using four distinctive 'V' piers. In early 2013 bridge beams will start to be assembled on the southern banks of the river. These will then be launched across the river in three stages. Once the beams are across the river, precast concrete panels will be lifted into place by a crane before construction begins on the final concrete deck and barriers.

Access to the camera can be made on the NZ Transport Agency's website, www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/waikato-expressway/webcams.html