

# NORTHERN CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS



As part of the Northern Corridor Improvements project, Upper Harbour Highway is being upgraded with SH1/SH18 motorway to motorway bridge and underpass connections which will separate local traffic from motorway traffic.

Construction of the underpass began in February 2019 with work on the bridges starting a few months later in May.

We are building the underpass using a 'top-down' construction method which means that the roof and walls are constructed first, then material under the roof is excavated and taken away. The underpass needs to be constructed in five phases and each phase requires traffic on SH1 to be realigned so that space is available for the team to work.

The most recent phase included the largest concrete pour of the project. During a nine-hour night shift in mid-May, we had eight trucks on rotation with the nearby concrete plant and a team of 27 working on site. Given the size and scale, this was a complex shift with two trucks continually pouring concrete into the concrete pump in quick succession. This was necessary in order to save time between truck changeovers as we needed to prevent the concrete from setting before the pour could be completed. In total, 434m<sup>3</sup> of

concrete was needed to complete the 40m long and 500mm thick concrete roof slab.

There is one more phase of roof and wall construction to take place and this will then be followed by the 'big dig' which will see 16,000m<sup>3</sup> of material excavated out from under SH1. The team can then begin work to turn the 'hole' into a functioning motorway underpass with features such as pavement, lights and drainage – we'll keep you updated of progress in future newsletters.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2021

*We're nearly halfway through the year and lots of activity is taking place on site. Here's a few of our key focus areas for 2021.*

## SH1

- Finish the Albany, Greville Road and Constellation Busway bridges
- Start southbound widening
- Start central median upgrade
- Finish retaining walls and bridges
- Finish Constellation Station upgrade
- Continuing to extend Northern Busway
- Continue construction of the shared path

## SH18 / UPPER HARBOUR HIGHWAY

- Start construction of the westbound on-ramp
- Start building the shared path which will be for people on foot and on bikes between Albany Highway and Paul Matthews Road
- Opening the eastbound off-ramp
- Completing Rook Reserve reinstatement works
- Constructing the northbound and westbound lanes
- Continue landscaping



## A shout out to our all-female team

The Northern Corridor Improvements team proudly boasts higher than usual numbers of women working in construction with females making up more than 20% of the workforce across the alliance by Waka Kotahi, Fulton Hogan, HEB Construction, Jacobs and WSP.

The team building the Rosedale Busway Bridge are an all-female group with over 35 years' experience between them and have been working on the project since early 2020. Amy is the Project Engineer for the bridge and she has the overall responsibility of controlling costs, ensuring that it's built to specification and on programme. The team is also made up of Julie as Site Engineer, Brenda who is the surveyor and Oceanna who is nearing completion of her carpentry apprenticeship.

Work on the Rosedale Busway Bridge is progressing well and the team recently celebrated placing the 86th (and final!) super tee beam - well done ladies! The bridge will eventually incorporate the new Rosedale Station as part of the extended Northern Busway.



Team from L-R: Oceanna Wilson, Amy O'Donnell, Brenda Keyzer and Julie Henrion

# Light poles installed on the Albany Busway Bridge

The urban design for the project looks to the ancestral use of the wider area for safe passage and harvesting kai (food), whether by ara (tracks) or awa (water). Design elements of the bridges, bridge barriers and retaining wall

panels provide travellers with a connection to the cultural and ancestral landscape of the area.

For people travelling from the North, the new Albany Busway Bridge is the first distinctive landmark of the project and references the

movement of a waka (canoe) through water. The light poles which are currently being installed are positioned in a way so as to be reminiscent of hoe (paddle) stroking through water from a waka. We plan to turn on the lights at night later in the year.



A member of the project team taking care of the plants

## Planting season begins

Winter marks the start of planting season which extends from May to September when the ground is wet and plants have the best chance to thrive. The landscapers from two local companies will plant approximately 90 different species and over 350,000 individual plants across the project which includes nine wetland sites as well as general planting within the area. All of the plants we're using on site are grown from ecosourced regional seeds. The team have planted close to 20% and so most of the planting will be completed as we move closer to the completion of the project next year.

# Keeping community updated

We've had a busy few months with several events held on site – check out our photos to see what we've been up to.



Michael Wood, Transport Minister visited in November 2020



Phil Goff, Auckland Mayor visited in January 2021



Bike Auckland visited in March 2021



Information day in April 2021

## Fun FACTS

### DID YOU KNOW?

**855,000m<sup>3</sup>**

**OF MATERIAL HAS BEEN MOVED**

**11,250**

**40FT SHIPPING CONTAINERS**

**THAT'S THE SAME AS**

**33,400m<sup>3</sup>**

**OF CONCRETE HAS BEEN POURED**

**THAT'S ENOUGH TO FILL JUST OVER 13 OLYMPIC SIZED SWIMMING POOLS**

**68,700**

**— of —**

**360,000**

**native plants**

**ARE CURRENTLY GROWING ON SITES ACROSS THE PROJECT**



### CONTACT:

To find out more or provide feedback, please contact our Community Engagement Managers Emma Cushnie and Trish Viall.

**Freephone:** 0800 624 776

**Visit:** 10 Rothwell Avenue, Rosedale

**Website:** [www.nzta.govt.nz/nci](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/nci)

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