

Baypark to Bayfair Link

Project update

14 November 2022



A place of pathways – the Bay Link project through the cultural lens

In the past, the Bay Link corridor was part of a broader route Ngāi Te Rangi iwi used to travel east and return for various purposes such as trading goods, seasonal harvesting, sourcing food, visiting whānau and attend gatherings. To this day, people travel the corridor for similar reasons.

He ara tēnei nō ō mātou tūpuna i ngā wā o te riri kia whakangungu i tō rātou whenua. He wāhi okiokinga hoki kia horoi ō rātou pia.

This is the pathway where our ancestors travelled in times of war in defence of the land. And also a resting place for the washing of their weapons.

Recognising the cultural identity and values of mana whenua, and acknowledging and expressing their traditions and relationships with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga is an integral part of the project. To share and

connect people with the rich cultural history throughout the Bay Link construction area, we are working with local mana whenua representatives from Ngā Pōtiki, Ngāi Tukairangi and Ngāti Tapu.

The Bay Link project will include a number of carvings, sculptures and pou whenua designed to reflect the values and historical significance of the area. These are being developed in partnership with the Bay Link Tangata Whenua Advisory Group – the hapū of Ngā Pōtiki, Ngāi Tukairangi and Ngāti Tapu.

The concrete wall behind HomeZone Owens Place near Russley Drive in Matapihi, is the first mahi toi (artistic element) installed as part of the Bay Link project, to reduce the noise from the relocated railway line to nearby residential properties. It has also provided a canvas for local hapū to tell their unique story. The mural represents the significant historic places, people and resources of the hapū from Matapihi.

Introducing our artists

A series of unique yet connected mahi toi are being developed as part of the Bay Link project. Each uses the talent, craft and traditional knowledge held by Tauranga Moana multidisciplinary artists Linda Munn, Maraea Timutimu and Stu McDonald who are of this whenua and know the stories it has to tell.



From left to right: Maraea Timutimu, Stu McDonald, Linda Munn

Anei ngā ringatoi – here are our artists

Maraea Timutimu – Ngai Tamarāwaho, Ngāi Te Rangī, Ngāti Hangarau, Ngāti He, Ngāi Tukairangi

Maraea is a visual artist and teacher whose portfolio spans a range of mediums and platforms. She has had numerous pieces in prominent art exhibitions across Aotearoa, with a practice backed by years of practical, theoretical, and experimental knowledge. Maraea emphasises the importance of Te Ao Māori (Māori world view) in her mahi, expertly weaving whakapapa, process and meaning in all her mahi toi.

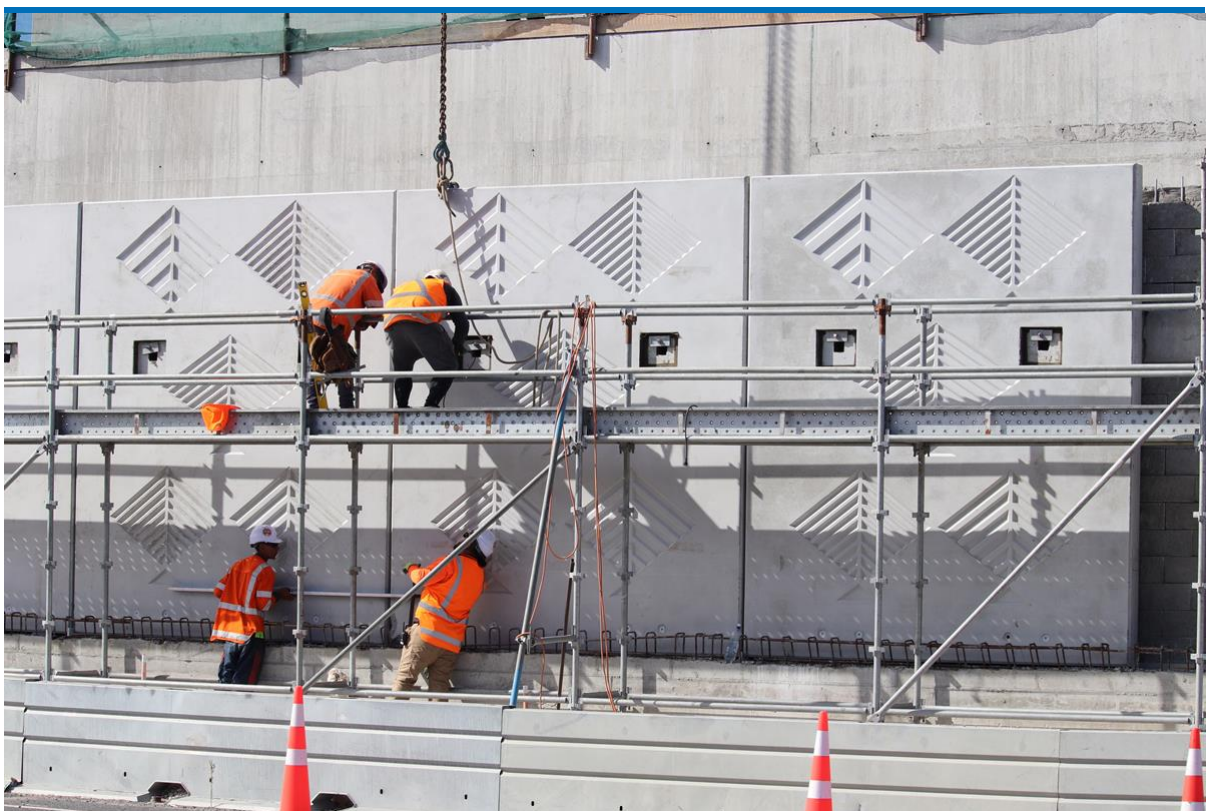
Stu McDonald - Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangī, Ngati Rehua, Ngāti Tapu

Stu is a tā moko (traditional Māori tattoo) artist, teacher and carver by study and trade. He has a prominent local Tauranga Moana based studio – Moana Moko, and a team of creatives around him creating beautiful pieces for people and places around Aotearoa and internationally. Stu also shares his knowledge in education, mental health and wellbeing working with local schools in Tauranga Moana and the broader Bay of Plenty.

Stu's traditional knowledge of tā moko and whakairo (carving), and general skill as a creative and artist, has led to a broad range of project experience, with the Bay Link project providing a great opportunity to work with different scales and mediums.

Linda Munn -Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Te Rangī, Ngā Pōtiki, Te Āti Awa, Ngāi Tahu

Linda's multidisciplinary art practice reinforces principles of tino rangatiratanga (Māori self-determination). She uses ancestral knowledge to explore the metaphysical and the place of spirituality in Māori cultural life. In 1989, with Hiraina Marsden and Jan Dobson, she designed the Tino Rangatiratanga flag as a way of unifying Māori concerns about the 1990 celebrations commemorating 150 years of Māori and Pākehā relations. Today, the Tino Rangatiratanga flag is mandated as the national Māori flag and is a symbol of Māori resistance and resilience.



Tai Timu – The ebbing tide, Tai Pari – The flood tide

Pātiki (flounder) and pāpaka (mud crab) patterns feature on ramps at the Bayfair roundabout and on Te Maunga interchange concrete barriers.

Pātiki and pāpaka were once abundant in the surrounding harbour and are both symbols of kaitiaki (guardians) for the people of Ngā Pōtiki and Ngāi Tukairangi.

These two creatures are the main source of inspiration for this mahi toi.

Originally expressed as realistic, organic forms placed together in various arrangements, the creatures have been abstracted and refined, repeated and re-arranged as if in formation.

They are physically embedded – imprinted – in the concrete panels; crawling, marching over the skin of the flyover, giving prominence to the forms as a key historical resource for mana whenua while giving new users of this space a glimpse of the kaimoana that once was.

Local artists Linda Munn and Maraea Timutimu translated the meaning into something the concrete pre-casters could bring to life on the panels, which measure up to 7.8 metres high and weigh up to 11.6 tonnes.

The first precast concrete panels installed can be seen on the retaining wall at the Bayfair roundabout. More are currently being installed on the flyover ramps and, once finished, will be present on all the flyover ramp walls. The narrative is also present on Te Maunga interchange concrete barriers.

"The moving tides reflect the intergenerational cycle and ongoing whakapapa of generations that move on and new generations that emerge.

The sea was traditionally our most common point of reference, our food basket and the highway that we traversed within Tauranga Moana and Aotearoa.

Moana meets the whenua and reflects the history of the sea as our traditional highway.

Kōhatu Mauri was a practice around the placement of the mauri (life essence) into stone.

In this way, the forms cast in the concrete panels acknowledge the mauri of our tupuna (ancestors) through our local narratives and food sources.

The durability of concrete is suggestive of the permanence of the highway, art and also the permanence of people and environment."



Have your say on new Bay Link speeds

Once completed, the Bay Link project will improve safety and accessibility and transform how people move through the area by separating state highway from local traffic, and improve walking and cycling connections.

To support this change we are proposing safer speed limits that reflect the new infrastructure, including Te Maunga interchange, the Bayfair flyover and the roads around it.

In a nutshell:

- 80km/h for the new Bayfair flyover
- 60km/h for all remaining roads, the new Bayfair roundabout, Te Maunga interchange and the new SH29A roundabout

The new speed limits, if approved, would be implemented once the project is completed.

These speed limits are being reviewed as part of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's nationwide speed review. Consultation is open until 12 December 2022.

Find out more and have your say

For more info on the Interim State Highway Speed Management Plan, including the proposed list of speed management activity in the Bay of Plenty, visit nzta.govt.nz/ISMP.

How to make a submission

You can have your say via online or email:

- use our online form at nzta.govt.nz/ISMP
 - scan a hard copy form and email to speedmanagement@nzta.govt.nz
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Illustration of the new Bayfair roundabout and flyover

All eyes on the future of the Bayfair roundabout

While work on the flyover took centre stage, with bridge beam installations and the building of two up to nine-metre-high ramps, the upgrade of the Bayfair roundabout took a backseat. Now work is in full swing, and we're building the new signalised Bayfair roundabout, which includes improved walking and cycling connections, making it safer and easier for everyone to move around.

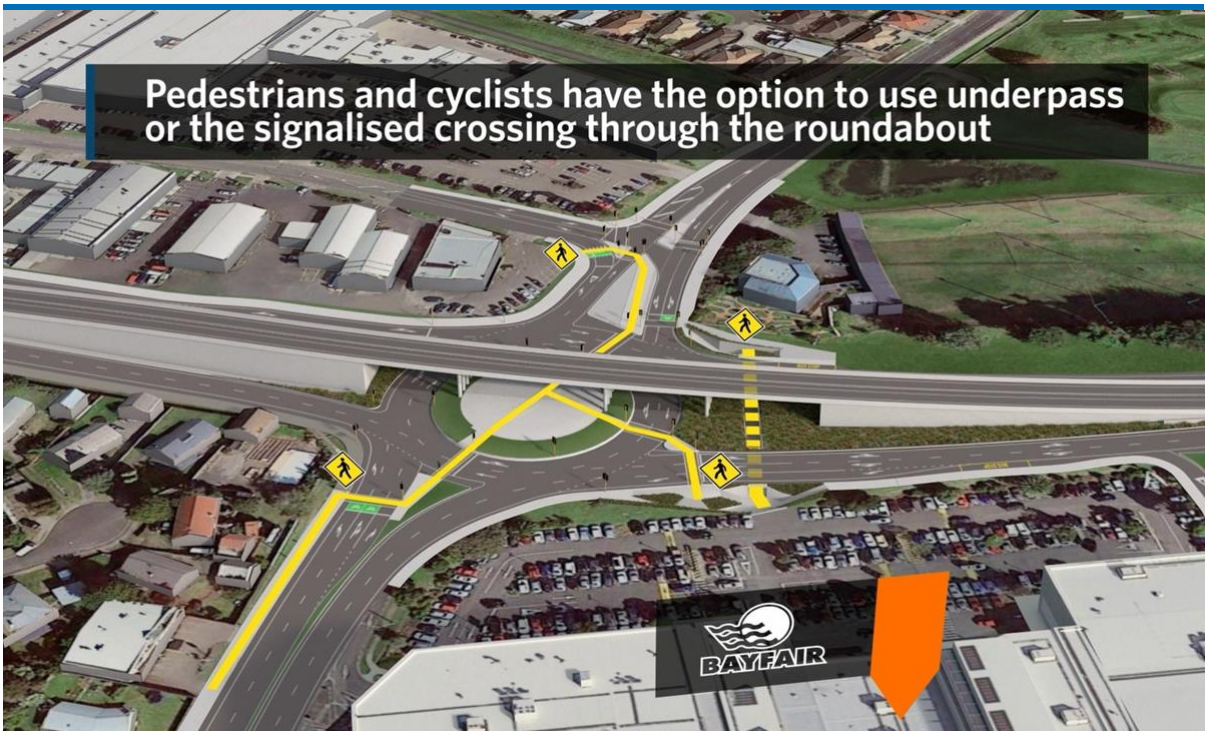
Construction of the signalised roundabout follows a sequence – first earthworks and drainage, followed by construction of the traffic signals, kerbing, footpaths and then landscaping.

The roundabout has seen another lane switch last week, and the two lanes between Matapihi Road and Girven Road are expected to be reinstated in February 2023.

As with many parts of the Bay Link project, the roundabout will also feature cultural elements such as boulders and etching, coloured concrete and landscaping to reflect the values and historical significance of the area.

In the future, the flyover will separate SH2 traffic from local traffic, transforming how people move through the area. Most road users, including heavy vehicles heading to and from the Port, will travel over the flyover creating improved, safer movements for local road users at and around the roundabout.

Original Bayfair roundabout – September 2017



The roundabout, once completed, will be double its original size and will be controlled by traffic lights. This will make it simpler and safer for everyone to use. It will provide an alternative route to the new underpass for people biking or walking, with signalised crossing points through the central roundabout island. People on bikes will be able to choose between using the underpass or the signalised crossing.

Walk this way – walk this way

The new Bay Link walking and cycling paths will connect with the surrounding existing network. They've been designed so people can easily and safely get to work, school or other places. Increasing walking and cycling connections with the wider network provides transport choices, which in turn assists with reducing carbon

emissions, improving overall traffic flow and making the area more accessible for everyone.

Walking and cycling improvements include new shared paths and upgraded footpaths along both sides of SH2, connecting to local walking and cycling networks and key destinations such as Baypark and the underpass. The walking and cycling routes, some of which are yet to be built, have been designed to be as direct as possible to respond to users' needs and link to key destinations. For example, we're creating a walking and cycling connection across SH2/29A Te Maunga interchange to Trustpower Baypark, one of Tauranga's busiest event and community sports centres.

Looking ahead – busy summer for Bay Link

With warmer temperatures and longer days upon us, we're gearing up for a busy summer at Bay Link.

Ongoing until autumn 2023: Work continues on the final ramp of the SH2/29A Te Maunga interchange (the TEL off ramp) and the Bayfair flyover, including the northern ramp. Both the TEL off ramp and the flyover are expected to open in autumn 2023.

Ongoing until winter 2023: Work on the new signalised Bayfair roundabout continues. The upgraded roundabout is expected to open in winter 2023.

Ongoing until project completion late 2023: Work on shared cycling and walking connections.

More information

For more information on the Baypark to Bayfair Link upgrade project, contact us at baylink@nzta.govt.nz

Visit our website www.nzta.govt.nz/baylink