

## Favoured route: Corridor E2

A key milestone has recently been achieved on the SH1 Cambridge to Piarere long-term improvements project. A favoured broad corridor and concept option has been identified by the project team and key stakeholders following a comprehensive evaluation process and input from public consultation.

The favoured corridor option is for a new expressway standard road that starts at the southern end of the Cambridge section of the Waikato Expressway and runs along the existing SH1 to an area in the vicinity of Hydro and Karapiro Roads. The proposed route then follows a new offline corridor located to the north of

the existing SH1 alignment to a point close to the current SH1 intersection with SH29, as shown on the plan above.

The favoured option includes:

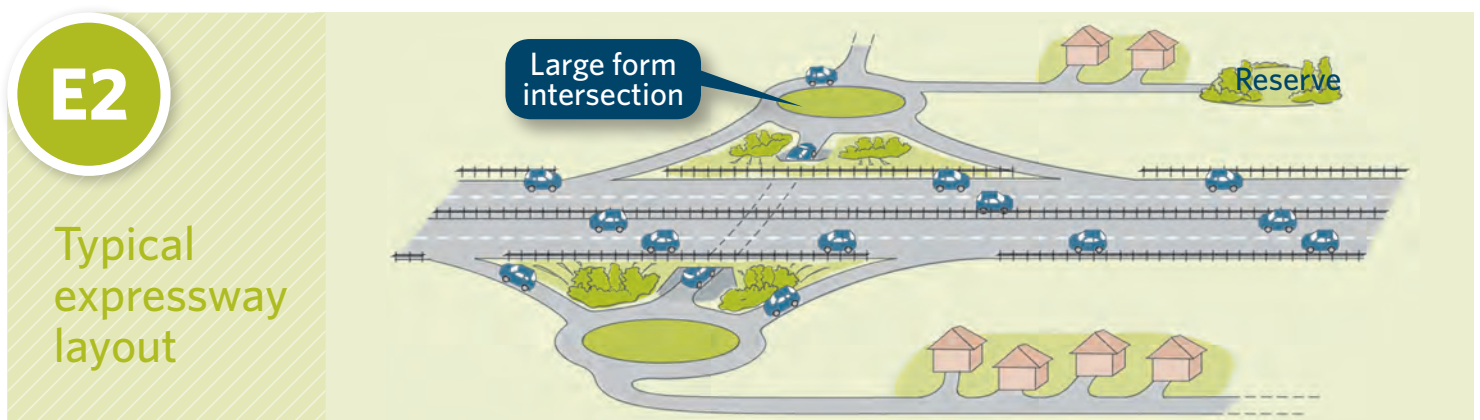
- Central and roadside median barriers along the full length
- 4 lanes entire length – expressway standard design with central median and wide shoulders (similar to Cambridge section)
- Parallel local roads to retain local access to adjacent properties
- Large form grade-separated intersections at 2 or 3 locations (e.g. Waikato Expressway/Victoria Road type intersection) including an upgraded SH1/29 intersection
- No direct access for properties on to SH1, all property access is from parallel local roads or from existing SH1/Tirau Rd corridor

- Shorter distance and journey times for both SH29 and SH1 routes.

The Transport Agency will make a decision on the approved corridor in September 2017.

Corridor E2 is the favoured option because:

- **It achieves all the investment benefits relating to:** improved safety, improved level of service and improved access to community features in the long term;
- **Provides an acceptable level of technical risk in regard to:** constructability and complexity to build; and
- On balance (with mitigation in place), it provides an option that enables a solution that can minimise environmental effects.





Public information day at the Karapiro-Taotaoroa Settlers Hall on 9 March 2017.

## Public information day

An Information Day was held at the Karapiro-Taotaoroa Settlers Hall on 9 March 2017 to discuss the five broad corridor concept options previously presented in the February 2017 Project Update. The Information Day was well attended by the community and a lot of great conversations were held about the project. We would like to thank all of those who took time out to attend and we hope you found it to be informative. Your feedback fed into the option comparison process, which led to a favoured option being established.

## Second online survey

The second online survey detailed the five proposed broad corridor options. Participants were asked to evaluate each of the five corridor options against the existing SH1 route in terms of safety and convenience. We had an excellent response to the second on-line survey with 330 surveys being completed by the end of March 2017. In summary, the feedback provided in the survey told the project team:

**Options A-C** (online upgrades of the existing road) were generally considered as not going far enough in terms of improving safety, while still creating significant inconvenience for those who use SH1 to access their properties and reserve areas.

**Option D** (online expressway) was considered to be a superior option in terms of safety and convenience, but concerns were raised around disruption during construction and the impact an online expressway would have on existing properties along SH1.

**Option E** (offline expressway with two sub-options E1 and E2) were also considered to be superior options in terms of safety and convenience, but concerns were raised around the impact on the community of having an expressway established in areas where currently no such road exists.

This feedback (in combination with feedback through other forums) was presented to stakeholders to provide them with an insight to what the wider community thought of the short-list options. This feedback was also very useful for the project team in terms of providing an alternative viewpoint on the short-list options and validating the choice of corridor E2 as the favoured option. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for completing the survey and providing their valuable feedback. For more details on the feedback you provided please visit: [www.nzta.govt.nz/c2p](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/c2p)

## Stakeholder feedback

A total of three stakeholder workshops have been undertaken to date. Key stakeholders involved in these workshops included: Waikato Regional Council, Waipa, Matamata-Piako and South Waikato district councils, mana whenua, NZ Police, Heritage NZ, Department of Conservation, and representatives from the freight industry.

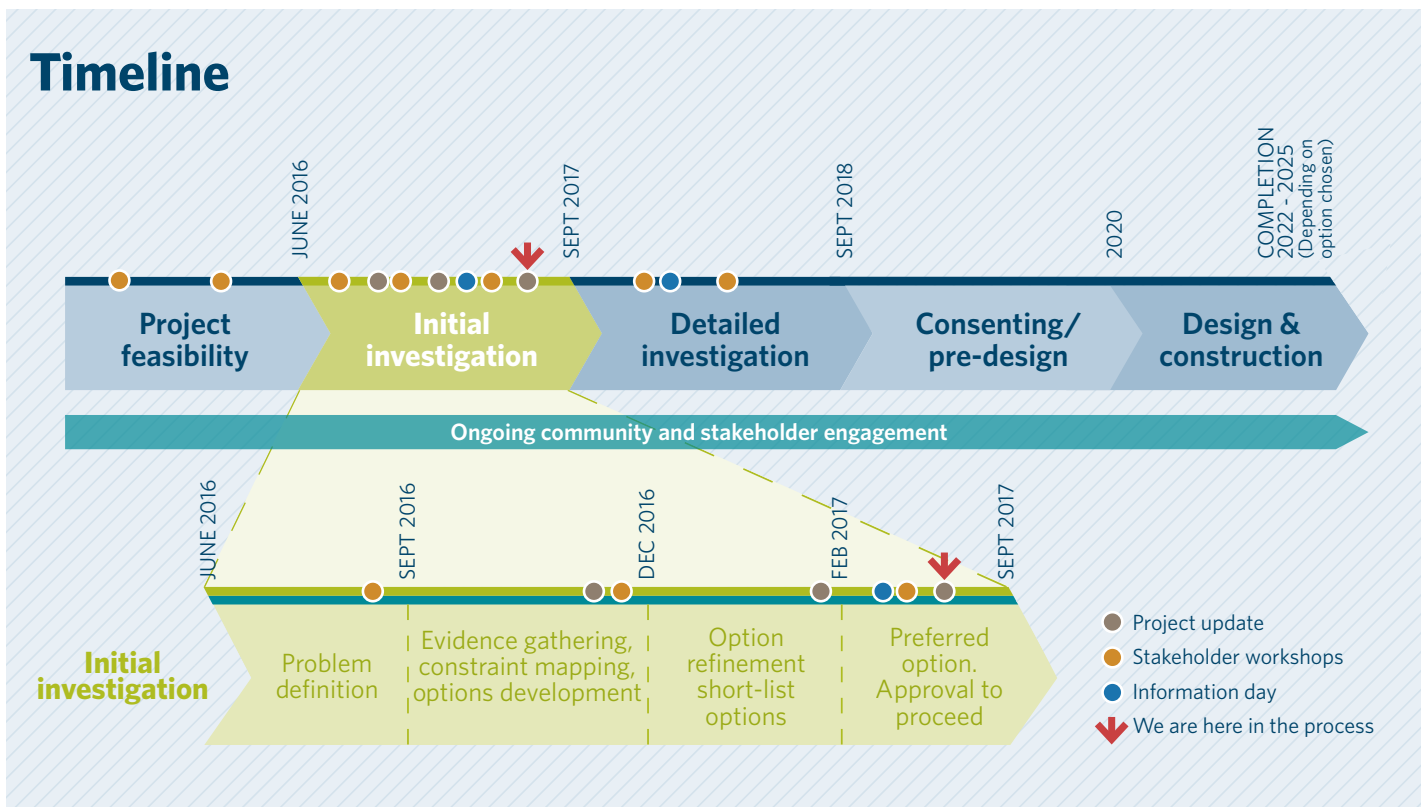
The most recent workshop in April 2017 was an opportunity for the project team to report on the information gathered about the short-listed options including community feedback, and for the attendees to compare the options and seek agreement as a group on a favoured option, as detailed on Page 1.



*As a result of the April 2017 workshop the project team and stakeholders in attendance advised that they favoured corridor option E2 – an offline expressway located to the north of the existing SH1 alignment as shown on page 1.*



## Timeline



## Frequently asked questions

It is appreciated that identification of a favoured corridor option will generate a number of questions by those potentially affected and the wider community. The project team has received a number of common queries related to the project since the public announcement of the favoured E2 corridor option. Please see the responses to four common queries, we have received.

### What are the next steps after a decision has been made in September 2017?

The next steps after September 2017 will be to consider a number of alignment options for the Expressway within that corridor. In developing alignment options, a number of matters will be considered, including what constraints exist within the corridor. An example of this includes what impact it will have on current landholdings and the people residing on and/or using those landholdings for business purposes (e.g. farms).

### How will landowners who live in the E2 corridor be contacted?

Landowners within the E2 corridor will be contacted directly over the next couple of months to arrange a meeting date and time. We want to understand their views as potentially affected parties and what is important to them. Various alignment options will be progressively developed over the next 6-12 months and we will be seeking feedback on these options from both E2 landowners and the wider community.

### How do we get to have a say?

For the detailed investigation phase of the project, landowner and community feedback is likely to be sought via one-on-one meetings, online surveys and as part of an Information Day where the alignment options will be presented for further consideration and feedback. Further down the track when approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991 need to be obtained for a confirmed alignment, there will also be the opportunity to make formal submissions on that proposal.

### If it transpires that you require some, or all of my property for the Expressway, what happens then?

Once a confirmed alignment is determined (expected to be in September 2018) the NZ Transport Agency will start negotiations with those property owners from whom land will be required to construct the proposed expressway. Those negotiations will be undertaken in accordance with the Public Works Act. To assist potentially affected landowners, the project team will include representatives from the Crown Acquisition Agent at all future meetings and engagement events to answer any questions you may have about the property purchase process.

## Next steps

We are on track to decide on the approved corridor by September 2017. Please refer to the timeline above which demonstrates where we are currently at in the overall process and what the next steps are.

## Short-term safety improvements update

The March 2017 Information Day at the Karapiro-Taotaoroa Settlers Hall was a great success with more than 300 people turning up to find out more about the short and long-term safety improvement options for the route.

There was a lot of support for our plans and we received some useful feedback that has helped us improve the design for short-term safety improvements. These improvements get underway later in the month and include:

- Widening the centreline to keep traffic apart. To do this we'll need to widen the road in some areas along the route

- Installing roadside safety barriers in high-risk locations to stop drivers running off the road
- Improving safety at some intersections by increasing visibility, better road markings and signage
- Creating a right-turning bay at Keeley's Landing for safer access to the reserve
- Relocating the Karapiro School bus stop from the SH1 roadside to within the school grounds.

## Next Steps

Work will start on the Karapiro Road intersection in the July school holidays and we are continuing to work closely with the community to refine the design of safety improvements.



An example of roadside safety barriers



## Trash and Treasure Market Cambridge

*Come and talk to us about the long-term improvements project.*

**Sunday 11 June 2017**  
**outside the Cambridge Town Hall**  
**8:30am - 1:30pm**



Find out more about the long-term improvements and subscribe to updates at: [www.nzta.govt.nz/c2p](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/c2p)  
 For general enquiries email: [c2p@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:c2p@nzta.govt.nz)



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