



An aerial view showing the location of the underpass on Cobham Drive, running from Sillary Street to Hamilton Gardens

Underpass to link with Hamilton Gardens

Work starts this month on the pedestrian and biking underpass for State Highway 1-Cobham Drive.

The underpass will connect Hamilton East with Hamilton Gardens on the city side of the Grey Street intersection at Sillary Street - see map above. The 4-metre wide, level and well-lit underpass will greatly improve safety and be a boost for walking and cycling in the city.

Work starts on 22 May and is expected to be completed in September 2017.

Four-lane Cobham Drive, which carries a daily average of 28,000 vehicles and has a posted speed limit of 80km/h, is difficult for cyclists and pedestrians to cross safely.

The \$1.4 million project is being constructed by Downer NZ on behalf of the NZ Transport Agency, which builds and maintains state highways.

How we build an underpass

While the end result is a 27-metre tunnel under the highway, we need to dig a deep channel across the road.

- The channel will require sheet piles to create an interlocking vertical wall
- 18 concrete sections will be dropped into place
- Each section is 2.5m high, 4m wide and comes pre-cast in 1.55m sections
- Traffic lanes will move as we dig, build and fill

Hours of work

The contractors will be working between 7am-7pm Monday to Friday with some Saturday work as required.



Sillary Street looking towards Grey Street, with the underpass entrance under Cobham Drive at right

Drivers please be patient

The project team will be working very hard to get traffic through the construction site with the least delay.

But it's not going to be easy, and we ask people to be patient during this time or consider other routes.

Key points:

- The current road layout will change for the duration of the works
- There will be two lanes – one in each direction
- Speed restriction 50km/h – down from the current 80km/h
- From about 6 June no right turn into Grey Street from Cobham Drive until early September
- Hamilton Gardens Gate 2 remains open to the public. But with no right turn into Grey Street people not wishing to head into the city should consider using Gate 1 at the Galloway Street Roundabout
- Current shared path through the work zone will be closed – people need to use the lower path through the Gardens, as shown in aerial graphic on page 1.



“ This project allows cyclists and pedestrians from Hamilton East to connect to existing paths into the city and new paths along SH3 and the Western Rail Trail. ”

Karen Boyt
Transport Agency Highway Manager



“ Hamilton is a great city for walking and biking, and we've already got around 150km of on and off road cycleways. This underpass is another link in connecting our city. ”

Jason Harrison
City Council Transport Unit Manager



Questions or more information?

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