

SOUTHERN INTERCHANGE UPDATE

UPDATE #1 – 9 April 2018

Welcome to our first regular update about the Southern Interchange.

These updates will focus on the Southern Interchange at Tamahere and our works through to Matangi Road. We will post a new update every two months on the Hamilton Section website.

Let's begin by answering some frequently asked questions.

Q. What were you doing with those huge piles of sand next to State Highway 1 at Tamahere?

A. We've just finished building a big retaining wall to support the western edge of the expressway. It is 16m high and extends right to the bottom of the gully. It's built from layers of compacted sand – 50,000 cubic metres in total. We needed the right sort of sand to compact properly, so we had to truck it in from a sand source on our project near Morrinsville Road.

Each layer of sand is reinforced by tough plastic mesh and strong geotextile cloth. The edge of the wall is filled with topsoil to encourage grass growth.



Click on the graphic link above to see a timelapse video showing how we built this wall.

Q. The new bridge is a lot higher than the existing road. How will it connect with Cherry Lane?

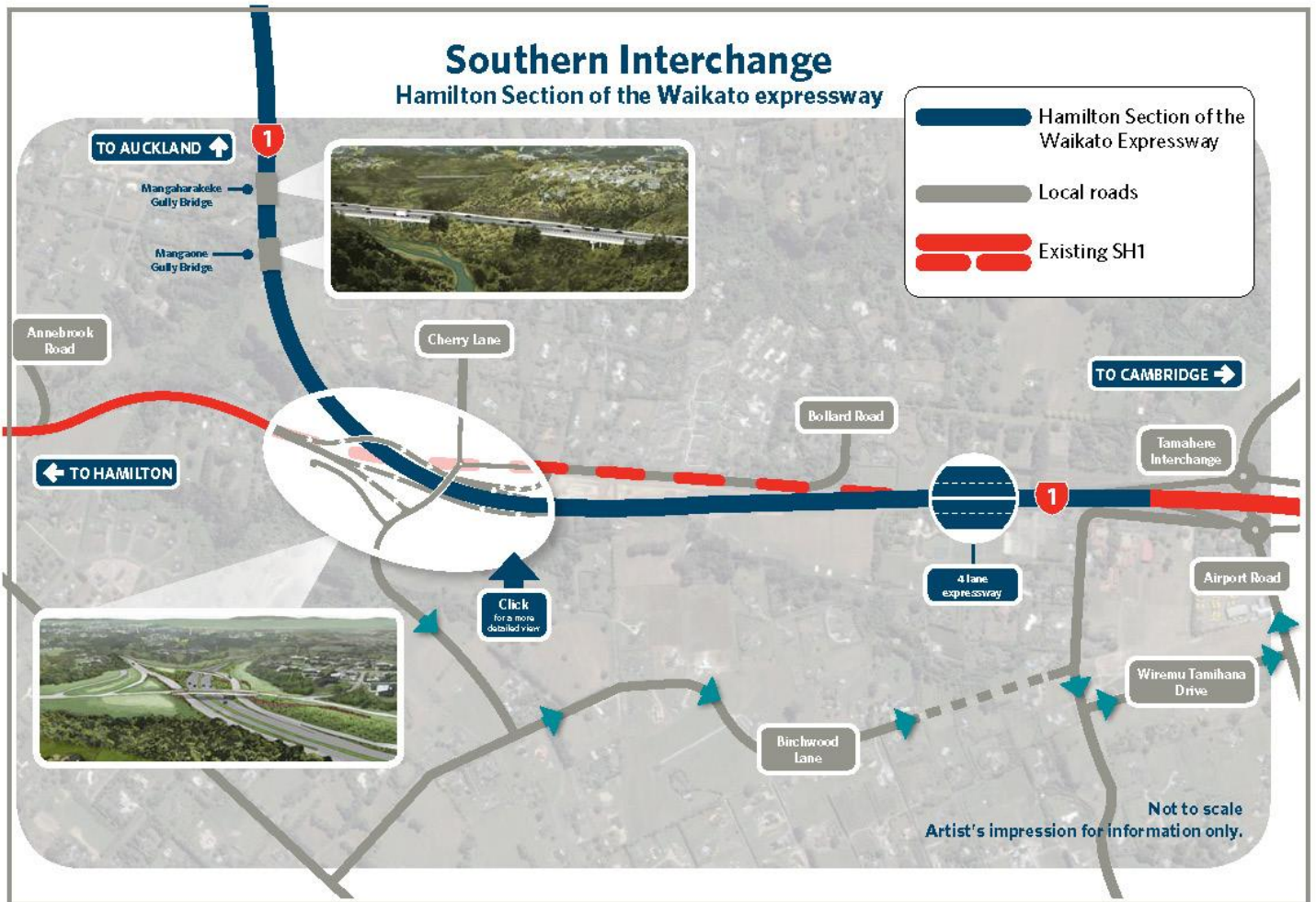
A. A raised roundabout will be built to tie the East-West Link Bridge in with Cherry Lane, Bollard Road and the section of Cambridge Road in between. This section of highway will become a local road and be renamed. The expressway will then become State Highway 1. (Waikato District Council is responsible for local road renaming.)

The East West Link Bridge will connect residents in Cherry Lane, Bollard Road and Cambridge Road with the city and the rest of Tamahere.

Q. Once the expressway opens, how will I travel from Cherry Lane to Cambridge?

A. You will travel south over the East-West Link Bridge, turn left into Birchwood Lane, then on to Wiremu Tamihana Drive, Airport Road and the Tamahere Interchange then head south on the expressway. This trip will take 2-3 minutes.

An unfinished section of Birchwood Lane needs to be completed by 2020 to make this possible.



Q. How will I get from Cherry Lane on to the expressway to Auckland?

A. You could drive into the city to use the new Ruakura Interchange. But you may find it's easier to drive to the Tamahere Interchange (the same way you go to Cambridge) and simply head north from the interchange. That way, you won't be caught up in city traffic.

A second bridge over the expressway

We've begun building a bridge that will cross the expressway north of Cherry Lane/Seabrook Lane. The Cambridge Road Bridge will carry traffic from the city to Cherry Lane and Bollard Road. It is also the expressway on-ramp – taking city traffic on to the expressway heading south. The photo below shows the bridge on our scale model of the interchange.



Looking south, the Cambridge Road Bridge is circled, with the East West Link Bridge and Cherry Lane roundabout in the background.

Strengthening ground in the gullies

Between Cambridge Road and Matangi Road, we're building two more bridges to cross the Mangaone and Mangaharakeke Gullies. Currently, we are improving the strength of the ground where our bridges and embankments will be built. We use two methods to achieve this:

- Continuous flight auger (CFA) uses a drilling rig to form a network of concrete piles in the ground
- Dynamic replacement (DR) uses a weight suspended from a crane to drive rock into soft ground to form a grid of underground rock columns. Click on the graphic above to see the video.



Both these methods increase the strength of the soils and prevent them liquefying during earthquakes. Liquefaction damages bridge foundations.

We've been working closely with residents in Cedar Park Drive to ensure noise and vibration levels stay within our consented limits.

We are also strengthening some of the steeper gully slopes with soil nails, and we are about to begin driven piling for the remaining bridge foundations. Residents will hear the familiar sound of 'bells' in the gullies when piling begins. This sound is caused by a metal weight knocking against the tubular pile casings as they are driven into the ground. Some residents may also feel some vibration.

Works progressing on Matangi Road

Work on the Matangi Road Bridge will ramp up in April.

In March, our pavements team began extending the bridge approaches, and this reduced traffic to a single lane.

The team was called away to help complete the tie-ins at the Osborne Road Bridge in Horsham Downs.



At the Matangi Road Bridge, drainage workshave began, and the pavements team will return mid-month to work on the bridge approaches. A single lane of traffic will begin crossing the bridge shortly. Traffic lights and Stop/Go controls will be in place at times, and traffic will be shifted around so the pavements team can complete the tie-ins, one section at a time.

Come see our model of the interchange

We have a scale model of the Southern Interchange that shows the new road layout, bridges, shared walking/cycling paths, noise bunds, new landforms and all the homes around the site, all in high definition. It's available to view from 10am to 3pm each week day in our Visitor Centre on Ryburn Road, Ruakura. Drop in to view the model and we'll answer your questions.



New video update for the whole project

Watch our new [March video update](#) for the whole project.

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