



SOUTHERN INTERCHANGE UPDATE

26 July 2021

New Link Road will open early – in stages

In September/October 2021, residents in the Cherry Lane/Bollard Road community will begin using the East West Link Road. This is the permanent access for your community. It will be opened early, in stages.

In **Stage 1** (shown in pink) the temporary intersection with SH1 will close, and traffic will use the new Link Road to Birchwood Lane. From there, the safest and most reliable route into the city is via Wiremu Tamihana Drive/SH21 Airport Road to the Tamahere Interchange. This will open in September/October.

In **Stage 2** (shown in blue) SH1 traffic will be switched to new lanes and travel over the Cambridge Road Bridge. The off-ramp from the city to the Cherry/Bollard/Eventide community will open.

In **Stage 3** (shown in orange) your on-ramp from the Link Road to the city will open and complete your permanent access.

All three stages will open to the local community before the expressway opens to traffic in mid-2022.



Each stage on the sketch will unlock different parts of the site for finishing works – final surfacing, barriers, street lights, signs and road marking.

When Stage 1 opens in September/October, our recommended route into and out of the city will be via the Tamahere Interchange. This is the safest and most reliable route for all drivers. While you may choose to use alternative routes, these routes may not be safe or suitable for older drivers.

As Stage 1 approaches, we will issue more letterbox updates to advise the date for the traffic switch and provide maps you can share showing the new access route.

Project staff will hold specific events for Tamahere Eventide residents and distribute maps to send to friends and relatives.

Construction update:

- The final smooth asphalt surface has been laid on the East West Link Road and the turning areas in and out of Birchwood Lane. Asphalt will also be laid on the Cherry Lane roundabout and the East West Link Bridge before this link opens to traffic in September/October.
- A 1.8ha cultural reserve is being created on the other side of the East West Link Bridge. Special land forms have been created (see photo) around an archaeological borrow pit in an area used extensively for gardening over the centuries. Look out for more on this in the next project newsletter, due to land in your letterbox in mid-August.



Earthworks under way at the cultural reserve.

- Building concrete barriers is one of our key tasks in the Southern Interchange right now. These barriers protect the bridges and have a ‘retaining’ function along the centreline where the northbound and southbound lanes connect at different levels. These barriers are ‘slip formed’ by a



machine that pumps concrete into a moving mould. Workers with trowels provide the final smooth finish. Once the barriers are dry, a tough anti-graffiti paint is applied.

Concrete barriers being formed at the Southern Interchange.

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