

# Hamilton Section

## Cultural reserve takes shape at Tamahere

A 1.8 hectare cultural reserve is under construction at Tamahere in an area where local Maaori have lived and cultivated crops since pre-European times.

The reserve has been designed as a place for contemplation, with a paataka (food storehouse) at the entrance, circular seating areas and a spiral path to a viewing area overlooking an historical paa site in the East West Gully.

The reserve will be accessed from the new East West Link Road between Cherry Lane and

Birchwood Lane, and connects with an extensive network of 3m-wide shared paths through Tamahere.

An excavator and bulldozer have shaped and topsoiled special landforms in the reserve, and these will be planted this winter. The landforms have been created around a 'borrow pit' which has been protected to provide the archaeological centrepiece for the reserve.

Tamahere has long been valued as place to live, farm and grow food. The archaeological record for this area shows large paa and areas of gardening where kuumara were grown successfully by adding local river gravels and sand to the soil. Large hollows in the ground or "borrow pits" are the surviving archaeological evidence of this quarrying activity.

The borrow pit in this reserve is the only one that remains after construction of the new Waikato Expressway. Early archaeological investigations showed the likely presence of a large complex of borrow pits, fireplaces and garden features.



Kiingi Tuheitia viewed the cultural reserve during a recent site visit. He is pictured with Bruce Waugh, Waka Kotahi's Client Interface Manager.

Early gardening in this area is increased by understanding the size, soils and other analysis of these borrow pits.

In 2018, a significant find of kooiwi (human remains) occurred just south of the reserve on the project site. These were sent off for scientific analysis and were confirmed as pre-European remains.



# Project Update: What's happening now?

## Barriers and finishing

- 8km of flexible barriers are completed, out of a total 72km. Another 20km are under construction.
- 2.5km of concrete barriers are now in place, out of a total 7km.
- 3.5 km of steel barriers are now in place, out of a total 12km.
- 300 street lights are now installed, out of a total 750 lights.
- sign installation and road marking has begun.



## Connections to local roads

**Northern Interchange/Lake Road:** Three on-ramps and off-ramps are formed and pavement construction is under way.

**Resolution Extension:** Between the Borman Road roundabout and Kay Road, 5000 cubic metres of soft peat ground has been dug out and backfilled with compacted rock to provide a stable base for the road. North from Kay Road to the expressway, pavement construction is under way.

**Greenhill Interchange:** Final asphalt is being laid on Pardoa Boulevard and the roundabouts at the interchange.

**Powells Road Underpass:** With the structure complete, work is about to begin forming the Powells Road approaches to the underpass.

**Ruakura Interchange to the SH26 Morrinsville Road roundabout:** The final asphalt seal has been laid on Ruakura Road. (The photo shows asphalt being laid outside Camarosa Restaurant in Ruakura Road.) Final sealing at the roundabout is under way.

**Southern Interchange:** In September/October, a series of traffic switches will begin. This will help unlock areas of the interchange for finishing works. In September/October, the temporary intersection to Cherry Lane, Bollard Road and Tamahere Eventide retirement village will close. A new access will be opened across the East West Link Road from Birchwood Lane. Later this year, SH1 traffic will be shifted onto new lanes.



## Bridges and structures

**Resolution Extension walking/cycling underpass:** This underpass is being installed just north of the Resolution Drive/Borman Road roundabout. It has been manufactured off-site in sections, then trucked to site, lifted into place by crane and concreted in place. The underpass will connect shared paths on each side of the new road. (The photo shows our underpass team preparing reinforcing steel for the next concrete pour.)

All the major structures for the expressway are now complete.



## Road pavement construction and final seal



85% of the road pavement is now complete across the project. 50% of the final asphalt seal is complete. Laying asphalt on the main expressway lanes will resume in September and is due for completion in December.

**Lake Road:** Where the Hamilton section ties in with the Ngaruawahia section, road pavement is now complete, ready for sealing.

**South from Ruakura Interchange:** Pavement construction is under way over a 1km section where the road has been raised to overcome drainage issues caused by iron ochre sludge.

**Morrinsville Road to Matangi Road:** This section has just been completed, and is ready for sealing.

**Southern Interchange:** The new lanes south of the East West Bridge have been sealed. On the lanes north of the bridge, pavement construction is complete, and ready for sealing. (The photo shows asphalt on the south-bound on-ramp under the East West Bridge.)

# New link in the north

When the Hamilton section opens, Resolution Drive will extend all the way to the expressway.

Hamilton City Council has confirmed the design for the Resolution Drive extension, and construction is well under way to connect the Resolution Drive/Borman Road roundabout with Resolution Interchange on the expressway.

The Hamilton section project is funded by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, but part of the connection to Resolution Drive is funded by Hamilton City Council.

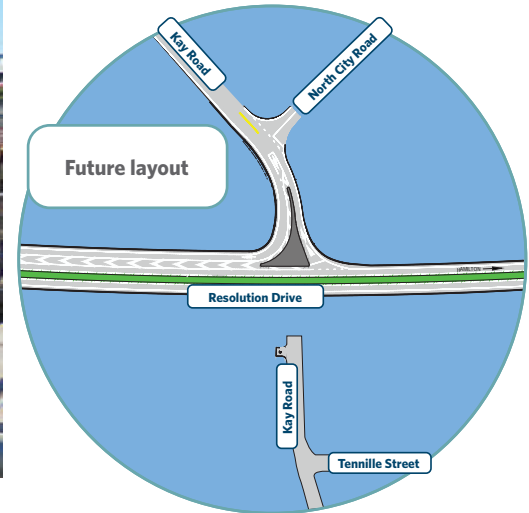
Council and the project have been working together to finalise access to Kay Road.

Kay Road will close on the western side of the Resolution Drive extension. On the eastern side, access to and from Kay Road will be 'left in, left out' with no right turns. A proposed right turn into Kay Road was removed from earlier plans after a road safety audit flagged it as potentially unsafe. The eastern portion of Kay Road will be renamed.

A walking and cycling underpass for the Resolution Drive extension has been built offsite and was recently lifted into place by crane. This will run under the road and connect the Tennille Street community with a network of shared walking/cycling paths.



The structures team prepare reinforcing steel for the next concrete pour during construction of the walking/cycling underpass.



## Project completion update

A recent review has seen the completion date for the Hamilton section of the Waikato Expressway moved to mid-2022.

Like many infrastructure projects across the country, the Hamilton section has been significantly impacted by COVID-19. This has added pressure to existing labour and material shortages. The project also encountered more challenging ground conditions than were expected and planned for.

This includes the unanticipated growth of an algal material (iron ochre) in the subsoil drainage network south of Ruakura, which has required a significant redesign to raise more than 800m of the four-lane highway by up to 700mm.

"We also recently discovered peat on Resolution Drive Extension which will need to be dug out and replaced with an engineered fill to minimise settlement of the road," Waka Kotahi's Infrastructure Delivery Regional Manager Jo Wilton says. "This means it will take longer to finish the Hamilton section than originally planned and it's now expected to open in mid- 2022."

## Intersection will close

On SH1 at Tamahere, the temporary intersection to Cherry Lane, Bollard Road and Tamahere Eventide retirement village will close in September/October.

A new access will be provided via Birchwood Lane and the new East West Link Road that will take traffic across the bridge that straddles SH1 at Tamahere.

This is a first in a series of switches that will move traffic away from areas requiring final surfacing and finishing works.

We will provide all the details Tamahere residents and their visitors need well before the change.



### Any questions?



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