

Longswamp project update

November 2017



Work progresses on the Rodda Road extension, pictured here on the left of SH1, with Wayside Road on the right.

Keeping local people connected

Separating local traffic from State Highway traffic is a big part of building the Longswamp section of the Waikato Expressway.

While progress can be seen all along the 5.9km section of SH1, much is also happening on nearby roads so locals can safely come and go from their properties after the four-lane Longswamp section of the expressway opens in early 2019.

The project includes extending Whangamarino Road on the eastern side of SH1 and Rodda Road on the western side, and building a bridge over the expressway near Paddy Road. This network will provide access to local properties via either the Hampton Downs or Te Kauwhata interchanges.

“Access to the new four-lane road can only be at interchanges so how we connect local people to the expressway is a big part of the plan right along the 102km of the entire route,” says NZ Transport Agency System Design and Delivery portfolio manager Peter Simcock.

“Work is well advanced on extending Rodda Road through to the Te Kauwhata interchange and we hope to have this link open to traffic in late December. The earthworks for the new extension are now complete and the road is ready for pavement construction to start.”

The Whangamarino Road extension through to Paddy Road is on target to open early in 2018. When this extension opens, the Whangamarino Road/SH1 intersection will close and traffic will use Paddy Road left-in and left-out.

Piling and column construction at the Paddy Road overbridge is complete, and the headstock construction past the halfway point.

“We appreciate everyone’s patience while we get this section of the expressway built, including the 24,000-plus vehicles a day on SH1 and the people who live, work or do business nearby,” Mr Simcock says.

Since construction on the four-laning project began early this year, the focus has been on the new south-bound lanes, and when those are finished in 2018 all traffic will use those lanes while the new north-bound lanes are built. The widening involves earthworks and drainage works before moving to the pavement stage.

Contractor Downer NZ has completed about three-quarters of this widening earthworks from Hampton Downs to just north of Wayside Road. Pavement construction is scheduled to start on the south-bound lanes later this month.

Looking ahead in November and December

- SH1 south-bound widening (earthworks, drainage) continues
- SH1 south-bound pavement construction begins
- Whangamarino Road extension continues for opening to Paddy Road in early 2018
- Paddy Road overbridge eastern span beams installed late November/early December.
- Rodda Road construction ongoing for late December opening through to Te Kauwhata interchange



Keeping you informed

Keeping the community informed about progress on the Longswamp section is important to the project team.

You can follow progress in the quarterly project updates, regular updates to residents of works happening in their area and links on our website and Facebook page.



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SH1 pavement south-bound



Paddy Road overbridge



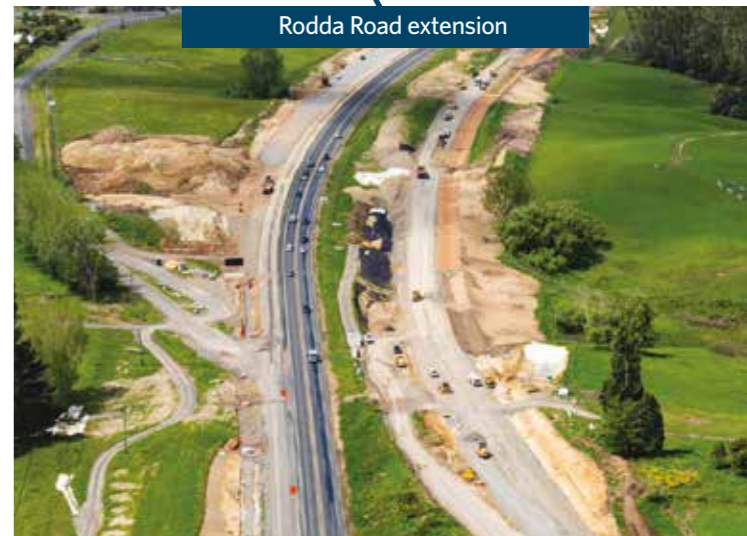
Widening work near Wayside Road



Whangamarino Road extension



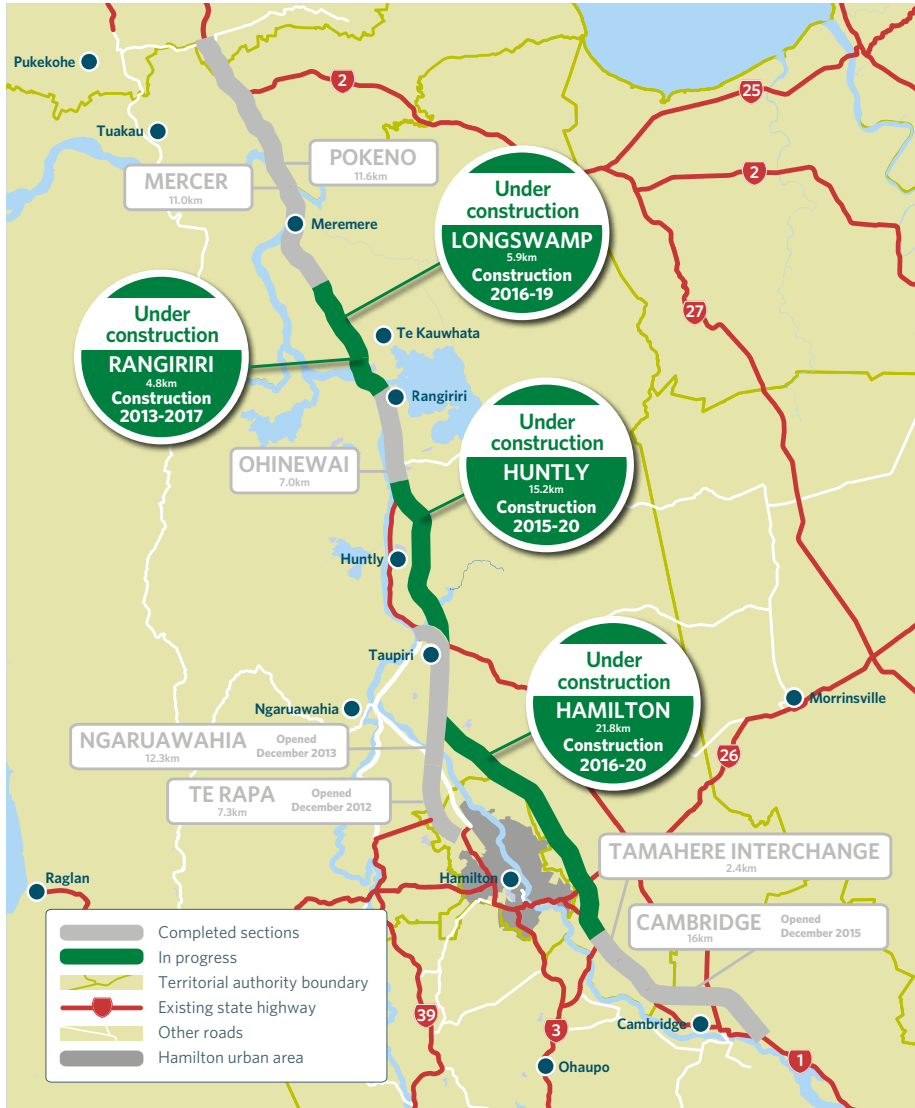
South-bound earthworks



Rodda Road extension

Expressway overview

The Waikato Expressway will improve safety and reliability, and reduce travel times and congestion on State Highway 1 by delivering a four-lane highway from the Bombay Hills to south of Cambridge. The Expressway is being built in seven sections.



STAFF PROFILE

Downer Site Superintendent - Allister Scott



How long have you been working in construction?

All up 24 years starting with 11 years at Fulton Hogan in Ashburton, four years at Hurlstone Earthmoving in Auckland and nine years at Downer.

How did you get into this line of work?

A family friend worked for Fulton Hogan and they needed a labourer.

What do you love about your job?

The diversity of the projects we are involved with – no two days are the same.

What is your fondest work memory?

The people I have worked with and the great projects we delivered together.

What are the biggest day-to-day challenges working on the Longswamp project?

Attracting and keeping quality staff is a big one. With the project being halfway between Auckland and Hamilton there are a lot of other work opportunities for people closer to where they live.

Key message to passing traffic?

Please take care passing through the site as traffic conditions are changing all the time as we progress the project.

Did you know?

- 55% of all major earthworks completed
- 12km of drainage pipe installed
- 1,069,000km of truck movements delivering aggregates
- 9,855,000 vehicles have travelled through site since October 2016
- 1.5m of rain in first year
- Plant includes: 21 trucks, 19 diggers, 8 rollers, 7 bulldozers



Project contacts

Project site office

5 Paddy Road, Te Kauwhata

Brandy Smith

Stakeholder Communications Advisor
- Projects North Downer New Zealand
Phone 0276923783
Email Brandy.Smith@downer.co.nz

Simon Brandon

NZ Transport Agency
Communication and stakeholder liaison manager
Phone 07 958 7888
Email simon.brandon@nzta.govt.nz