

Longswamp project update

March 2018



Looking south towards the Te Kauwhata interchange, with the new Rodda Road extension on right

Switch to new lanes from May

People passing through the Longswamp project can expect to be driving on sections the new south-bound lanes from May.

Work on the 5.9km section of the Waikato Expressway – which involves widening the existing route to accommodate four lanes – has progressed steadily since construction started in early 2017, with the focus on earthworks, drainage and building the south-bound lanes first.

From May this year the project team will start switching traffic on to sections of the new south-bound lanes, and this will allow construction to start on the north-bound lanes.

“A fine summer – apart from the last month – has seen good progress right along the route, meaning we remain on track for completion by mid-2019,” says Downer NZ’s project manager at Longswamp, Iain Fletcher.

“The overbridge at Paddy Road is taking shape now and we look forward to placing the beams shortly. And it’s good to get those local roads connected up – with

Rodda Road now open down to the Te Kauwhata interchange and soon Whangamarino Road will connect through to Paddy Road. The Paddy Road bridge will be completed mid-2018 but won’t be able to open it to traffic until it has been sealed – possibly in early spring.

“Local people have been very patient with the detours in place so getting full and safe access to and from SH1 is a big milestone for them and us,” Mr Fletcher says.

“We have significant amounts of pavement construction under way and at various stages of completion – from strengthening and improving ground conditions through to seal preparation.

“We continue to urge motorists travelling through site to keep to the reduced speed limit of 70km/h. Our crews are working alongside traffic and the safety of everyone is important.”

What is ahead in March-April

- Whangamarino Road will open through to Paddy Road on 15 March
- Paddy Road bridge beams in place in May
- Staged traffic switch to sections of the south-bound lanes begins from May
- Construction of new north-bound lanes starts in May



Keeping you informed

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

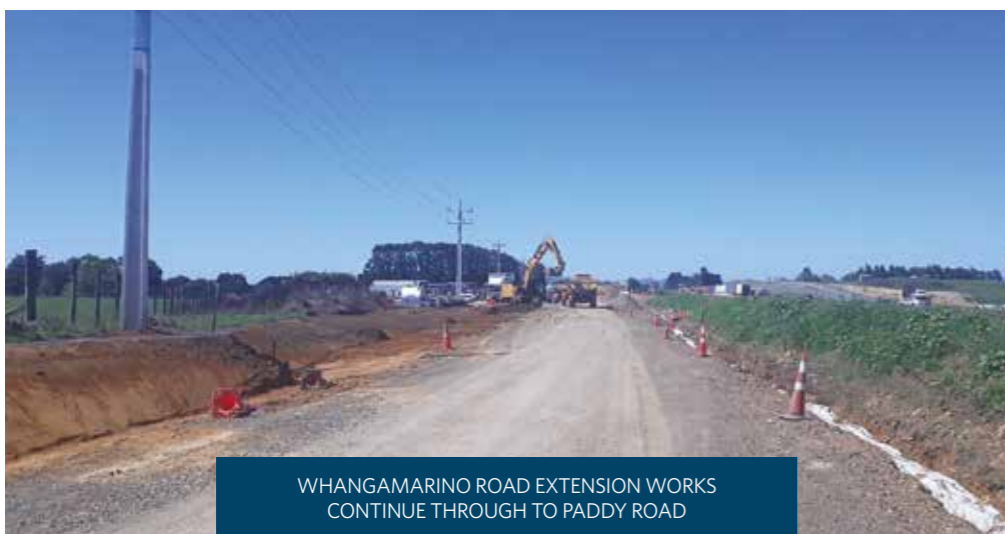
You can follow progress in the quarterly project updates, regular updates to residents of works happening in their area and links on our website and Facebook page.



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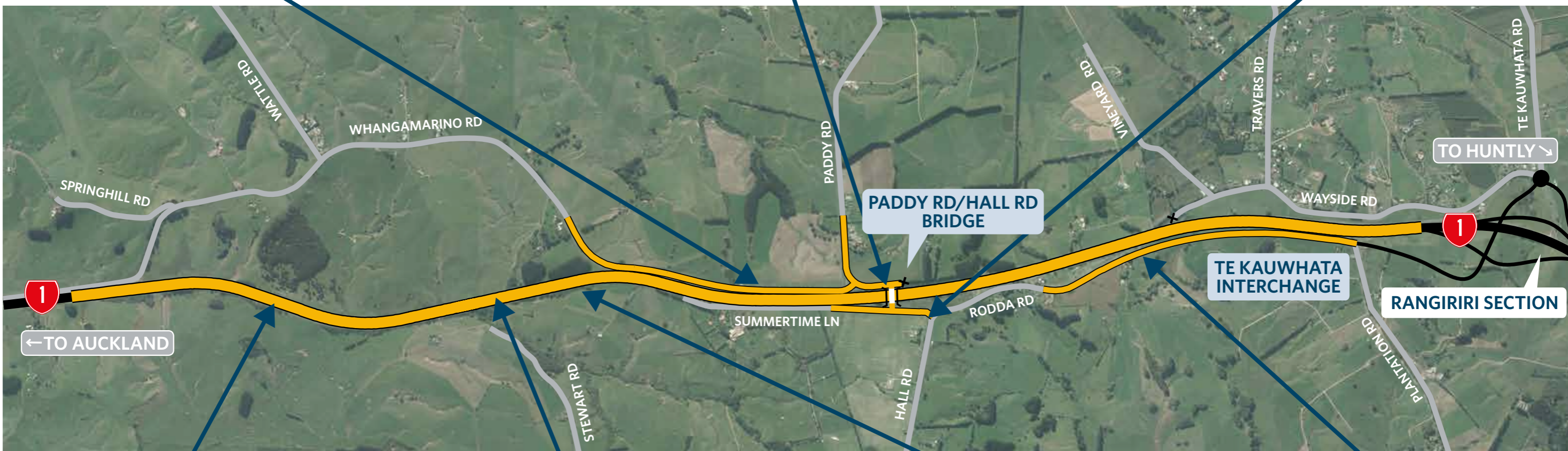
WHANGAMARINO ROAD EXTENSION WORKS CONTINUE THROUGH TO PADDY ROAD



PADDY ROAD OVERBRIDGE WHERE ALL PIERS AND COLUMNS NOW COMPLETE



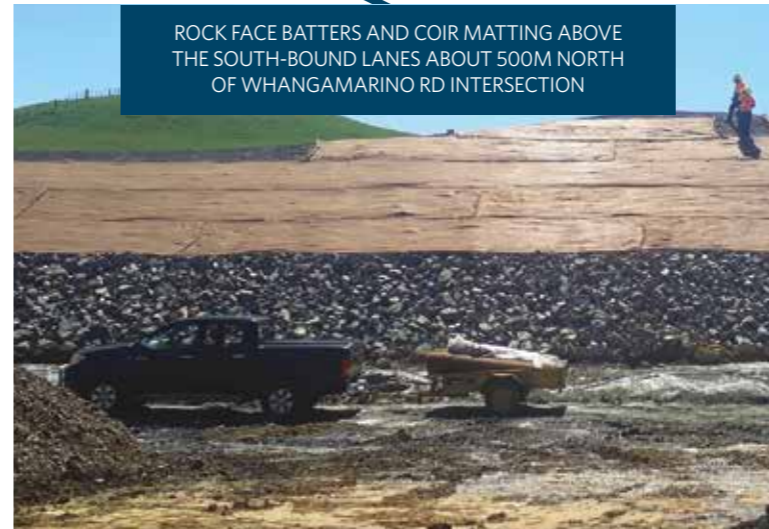
HALL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION IS ONGOING SO PLEASE DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS



TE KAUWHATA CUTTING, ABOUT 1KM SOUTH OF HAMPTON DOWNS, WHERE THE SOUTH-BOUND LANES HAVE BEEN CUT



SH1 SOUTH-BOUND LANES READY FOR SURFACING.



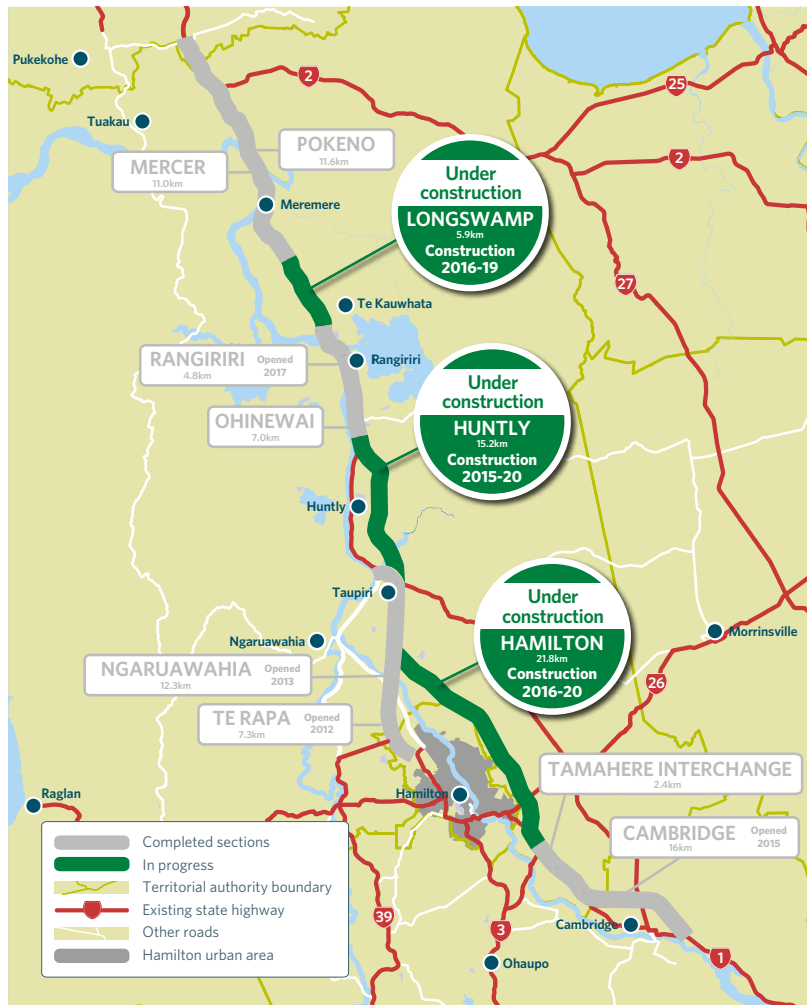
ROCK FACE BATTERS AND COIR MATTING ABOVE THE SOUTH-BOUND LANES ABOUT 500M NORTH OF WHANGAMARINO RD INTERSECTION



RODDA ROAD OPENED TO TRAFFIC ON 28 FEBRUARY WITH A 50KM/H SPEED RESTRICTION

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



Samuel Lawson is the site engineer on the Longswamp project, working in Downer NZ's Infrastructure Projects North group.

How long have you been with Downer?

I was an intern with Downer while at university but have now been in full time work for three years.

When and where did you graduate?

I graduated from the University of Canterbury in 2014.

What are your hobbies outside of work?

I play social cricket for the prestigious Green Parrots and played footy last year for the Auckland Varsity premiers. I also enjoy golf and running and try to find time for artwork – painting mainly.

How long have you been working on the Longswamp project?

I started on the job in August 2016, which was well before we got to site in early 2017.

What is your most memorable achievement while working on Longswamp?

It will be seeing those bridge beams arrive at Paddy Road.

What have been your biggest challenges while working on Longswamp?

I live in Auckland so the location of the site means I have to contend with traffic which is unpredictable and often frustrating. As a result I have often been the guy who turns up late to sport trainings etc.

What advice would you give to new graduate engineers?

Keep asking questions until you understand. Find yourself a book and write anything and everything in it – conversations, checks, daily activities etc. And try not to lose the book.

Recent highlights

- Rodda Road extension, from Hall Road through to the Te Kauwhata interchange, opened to traffic on Wednesday 28 February 2018. The speed limit for this road is temporarily set at 50km/h. With the Rodda Road connection opening the left in-left out at Hall Road-SH1 closes.
- Construction works at Hall Road continue. Please drive carefully through the temporary traffic management in place.
- The Whangamarino Rd extension through to Paddy Rd is progressing well and will open to traffic on 15 March, 2018. When this extension opens, the Whangamarino Rd/S1 intersection will close. South-bound traffic will need to access SH1 from

Paddy Road (left turn only). North-bound traffic can access SH1 from the Hampton Downs on-ramp.

- The concrete patterned panels on the eastern MSE wall of the Paddy Road overbridge are in place with all bridge columns and headstocks complete. Construction of the western abutment will restart in May after the SH1 traffic switch. At this time placing the bridge beams will start.
- Construction of around 300 stone columns will start soon on the eastern bank opposite Hall Road intersection. These 15m deep columns will contain about 4500 cubic metres of stone and greatly strengthen the ground. Once the columns are in place, the area will be filled to the new road height to accommodate the new southern lanes through this section.



Project contacts

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