

MATAKOHE BRIDGES

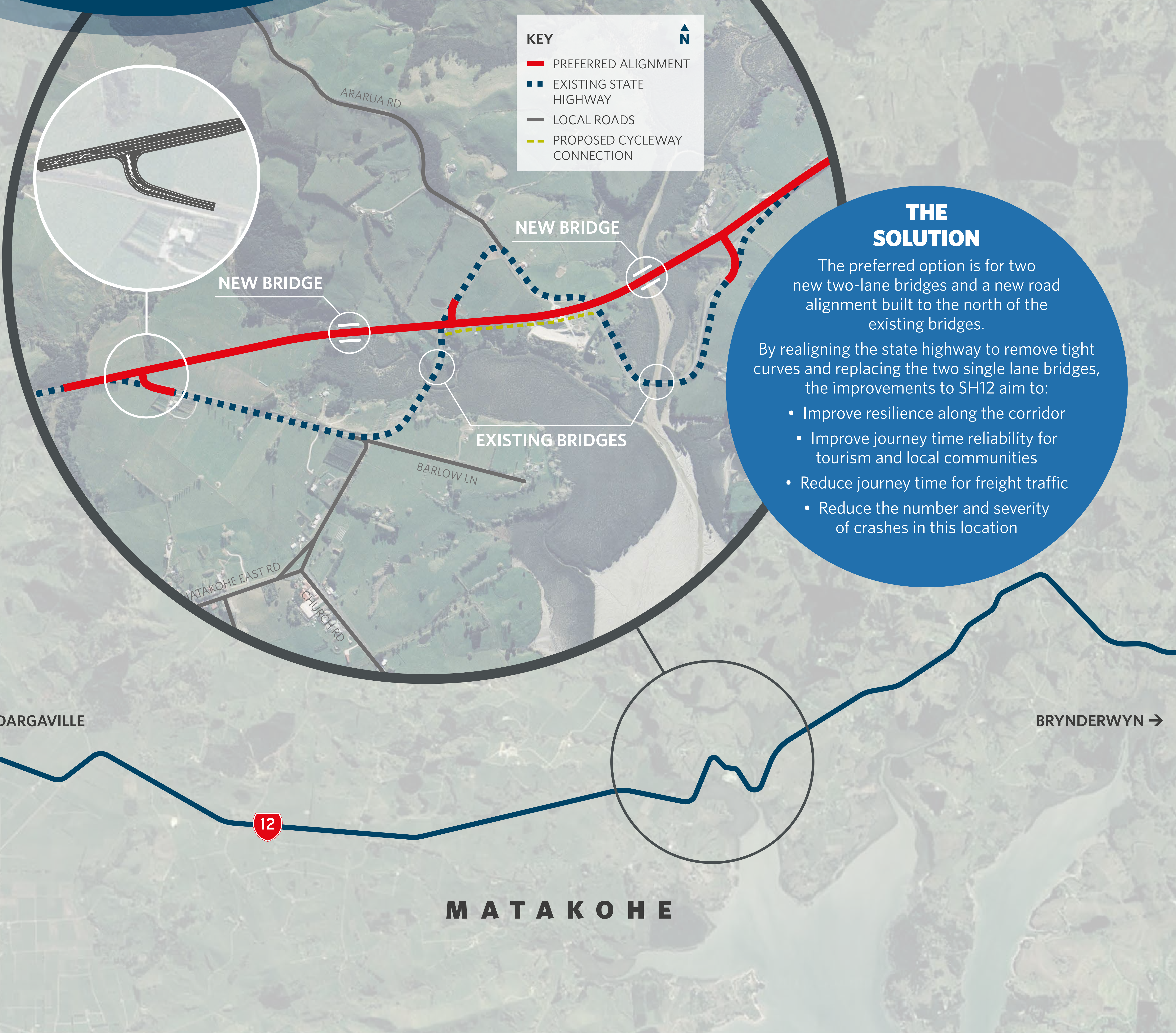
The Matakohe bridges (Hardies and Anderson) are located on SH12 near Matakohe, approximately half way between the townships of Ruawai and Maungataroto. The township of Matakohe is to the south of the bridges.

SH12 is part of the Twin Coast Discovery Route providing access to significant tourist destinations including Tane Mahuta in the Waipoua Forest and the Kauri Museum at Matakohe.

The Matakohe bridges carry an average of 1,850 vehicles per day, including approximately 200 heavy vehicles.

THE CASE FOR CHANGE

- Due to the tight curves, short straights and two single lane bridges, there have been 15 reported crashes between 2005-2014 on or near the bridges
- The two bridges are narrow with no space for pedestrians or cyclists
- Travel delays during seasonal peaks contribute to accidents due to driver frustration and risk taking behaviours
- When the Matakohe bridges are unavailable due to incidents or accidents, the detour route is 33km long.



THE SOLUTION

The preferred option is for two new two-lane bridges and a new road alignment built to the north of the existing bridges.

By realigning the state highway to remove tight curves and replacing the two single lane bridges, the improvements to SH12 aim to:

- Improve resilience along the corridor
- Improve journey time reliability for tourism and local communities
- Reduce journey time for freight traffic
- Reduce the number and severity of crashes in this location

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