

20
October

Public Information Day on 20 October, 2pm to 7pm

A public information day on the Pokeno to Mangatarata project will be held on Thursday 20 October from 2pm to 7pm at the Maramarua Golf Club. The project team will be available to talk about the project, answer questions and hear your views.

You can also visit the project website www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/pokeno-to-mangatarata



Announcing the SH2 safety improvements are (L-R) Coromandel MP Scott Simpson, Transport Minister Hon Simon Bridges and Thames-Coromandel Mayor Glenn Leach.

Planning for a safer SH2

Planning and design work is now under way for the \$278 million of safety and capacity improvements on State Highway 2 from Pokeno to Mangatarata.

The project teams for each section have begun working on the detailed design and preparing the necessary planning documentation. This includes technical specialists assessing the environmental effects such as noise, ecology, archaeology, traffic impacts, stormwater management and treatment, air quality, landscaping and visual and soil contamination investigations. We hope to lodge our consent applications and notices of requirement to alter the road designation with the three councils (Waikato District Council, Hauraki District Council and Waikato Regional Council) in March next year.

More land surveying and geotechnical investigations are being carried out by a team of surveyors and geotechnical engineers.

The project teams are presently engaging with directly affected landowners along the corridor to discuss the land requirements. Initial meetings have also been undertaken with key stakeholders and representatives from iwi in the area.

What is planned?

The highway will be three-lanes, with two lanes west-bound toward Auckland, with four grade-separated intersections, a roundabout, and wire rope median and side barriers with turnaround facilities. There will be three east-bound passing lanes and three deviations from the current highway: a 4.5km undulating section north of the Mangatawhiri Stream, at Maramarua and at Kopuku. The project is future-proofed to allow for four-laning when required.

Why are we doing this?

An important reason for undertaking the upgrades is to provide safety improvements as this stretch of SH2 has a high rate of fatal and serious injury crashes. It is also operating at capacity, with an average of 15,560 vehicles (including 2200 heavy vehicles) using this corridor daily.

During peak periods, traffic volumes can reach 25,000 vehicles per day. Travellers from Auckland experience delays five times a year but their return journey results in long queues 12 times a year. This has led to the decision to provide two continuous west-bound lanes and space for a future east-bound lane.

Environmental assessments

It's not just about building the road – several environmental assessments are under way to understand how the proposed upgrades can be best accommodated. For example ecologists will be looking at the flora and fauna of the area, including a survey to see if NZ long-tailed bats are present and where. An archaeological team will be examining the area and researching historical information to see if there are any sites of significance that we need to be aware of.

Key benefits of the improvements ahead include:

- To reduce death and serious injuries by 80% over 20 years
- Improve the KiwiRAP safety rating from 2.5 to 4 stars
- Improve journey time predictability
- Safer access for local communities
- Provision for cyclists with wider shoulders

Keeping you informed

If you have questions talk to the Transport Agency

Project manager

Peter Murphy
phone: 07 958 7251
Email: peter.murphy@nzta.govt.nz

Project manager

Alison Keehan
phone: 07 958 7220

Senior communications advisor

Simon Brandon
phone: 07 958 7888
Email: simon.brandon@nzta.govt.nz

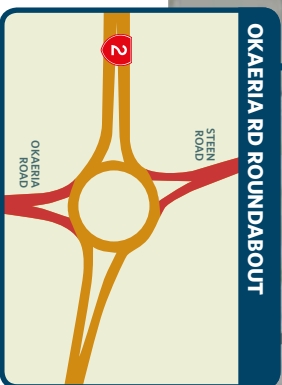
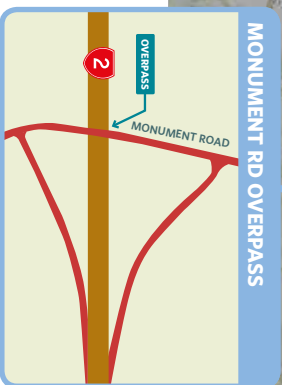
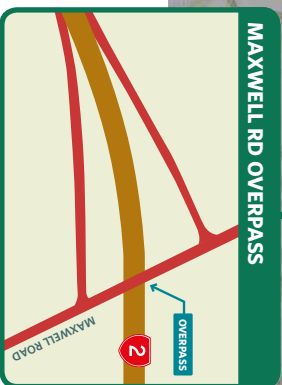
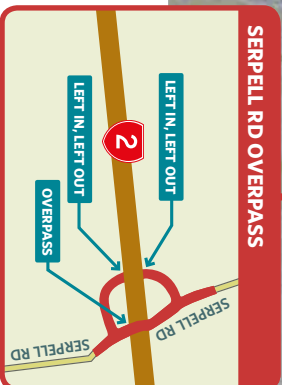
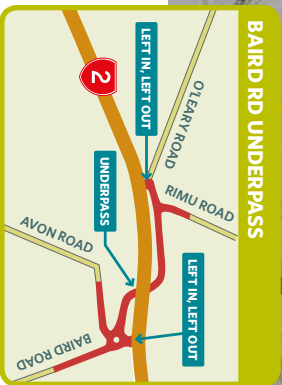
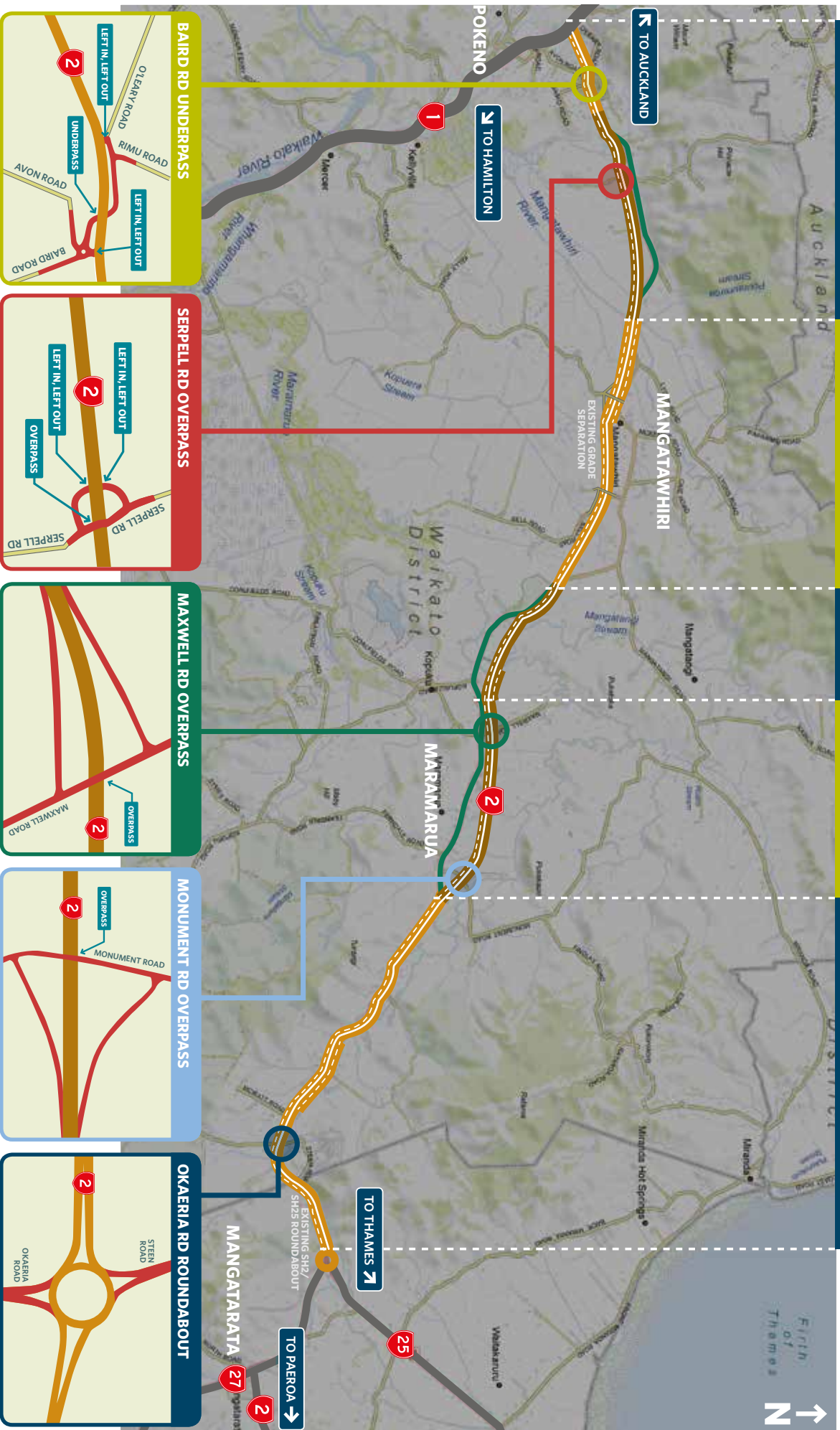
WESTERN SECTION
SECTION A

MANGATAWHIRI DEVIATION
SECTION B

KOPUKU
REALIGNMENT
SECTION C

MARAMARUA DEVIATION
SECTION D

EASTERN SECTION
SECTION E



MAP LEGEND



UPGRADE TO EXISTING STATE HIGHWAY WITH 2 LANES WESTBOUND AND 1 LANE EASTBOUND



PROPOSED REALIGNMENTS 2 LANE WESTBOUND AND 1 LANE EASTBOUND



CURRENT STATE HIGHWAY



EASTBOUND PASSING LANE