

APRIL 2016

The Causeway Alliance is raising and widening 4.8km of Auckland's Northwestern motorway and cycleway, between Great North Road and the Whau River Bridge. The Causeway Upgrade Project is to prevent flooding and provide additional capacity for when the Waterview Tunnels open in early 2017.

It's almost time to say goodbye

Motorists will be delighted to know that the works at the Te Atatu Interchange are almost complete and we will say goodbye to the Te Atatu team in late April. While there has been a lot of disruption during construction, the community's continued support has been a valuable part of a successful project to make the interchange safer and better.

Over the last two years the team at Te Atatu has increased capacity by:

- » widening a section of SH16 between Te Atatu and Lincoln roads from two to three lanes in each direction
- » improving safety by rebuilding motorway on-ramps and exits

- » raising and widening the Te Atatu overbridge providing an additional lane in each direction
- » extending bus shoulder lanes to SH16 for quicker bus trips during peak periods
- » improving pedestrian and cyclist access throughout the interchange and on the Northwestern cycleway
- » replacing the existing Jack Colvin Park spectator seating.

Here is a quick look at the 'then' and 'now' photos that show the dramatic changes that have taken place over the last two years.



THEN



Te Atatu Interchange - December 2013 (above) and March 2016 (below)



NOW



A sneak peek

These photos show some of the artwork that you can see on the northern underpass walls of the Te Atatu Road Interchange now that it has opened.



Great North Road on-ramp - it's all in the curves

The Causeway Alliance team has been working to keep customers moving and safe by improving the curves on the loop on-ramp citybound. This work is almost complete.

During April there will be two traffic switches to move motorists. The first switch occurred overnight in early April. The second and largest will occur around late April/early May. This will require the Great North Road on-ramp citybound to be closed for one weekend to allow the team to complete the new on-ramp.

Detours will be in place and more information will be provided in the week before the closure.

Visitor from the deep

This visitor caused quite a stir when it decided to take a nap on the wharf at the Te Atatu Boat Club and is the latest in a long line of exotic wildlife we have welcomed to the project over the years. The leopard seal refused to let anyone past and for a couple of hours, people couldn't leave or get to their boats.

Leopard seals have a disproportionately large head, massive jaws, impressive teeth and a tremendous gape that gives them a snake-like appearance.

One look at those teeth and Causeway team member Mike Ryan put safety cones in place and stayed nearby to warn unsuspecting boaties until a DOC ranger arrived to assess the situation. As the DOC ranger pulled into the car park, the leopard seal rolled over, slipped back into the water and swam off towards the Whau Bridge.

Adult leopard seals are normally found along the edge of the Antarctic pack ice but in winter, young animals move throughout the southern ocean visiting New Zealand.

Females grow faster and larger than males and very large individuals can weigh up to 450kg.



Patiki Road underpass

The much awaited Patiki Road underpass opening was a serious 'woo hoo' moment for cyclists. The underpass opened in mid-March, a little later than planned and to the obvious delight of cyclists.

There is work still to be done along the edges of the cycleway in this area and this will be carried out during off peak times and/or overnight to cause the minimum disruption possible.

Last year *Causeway News* introduced the brick design as 'Poutama' in tukutuku style. Poutama, the stairway to heaven, is a design from ancient lore that symbolises a climb made to receive the three baskets of knowledge from the gods. Tukutuku is the panel work that is found on the interior walls of marae.

Iwi artists were invited to submit proposals and Reuben Kirkwood, Tika Creative Limited was engaged.



Pauline Nobbs – Traffic Manager

Pauline is the Traffic Manager for the Causeway Alliance and she has been with the project from day 1.

Pauline's job is complex and in her own words 'no two days are ever the same'. Safety and keeping motorists moving are both high priorities for Pauline. She has made many contributions to this project including the successful co-ordination of a considerable number of complex, lengthy traffic switches in a difficult and challenging environment.

To appreciate the complexity that Pauline deals with every day, it is worth remembering that the project extends over approximately 4.8km of SH16 from Great North Road Interchange to the Whau River Bridge and 90,000 road users pass through the project every day.

Pauline's time with the project is about to come to an end as she moves on to another job and another phase in her life. She has earned our thanks for her outstanding ability to keep our customers moving.



More information

nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh16causeway

info@sh16causeway.co.nz

0800 833 333