

Hawke's Bay safety improvements

State Highway 2 through Hawke's Bay is an important route for locals, freight and tourists. Too many people are dying or being seriously injured on this stretch of road. Something has to change.

From 2006 to 2015, 21 people died and 56 were seriously injured between Wairoa and Bay View alone. Crashes on the road between Pakipaki and Waipukurau mean 13 more people have died and 62 people seriously injured. Most of these crashes happened when drivers lost control of their vehicle and drove off the road, or crossed the centreline and crashed head-on into another vehicle.

We want to prevent more crashes like these.

We worked with your community representatives, local councils and transport groups, like the AA, to understand the problems with the road and we've now agreed on the best way to make it safer.

Making your road safer



How will we make your road safer?

This year we'll start making the following safety improvements to SH2.

Wide centrelines

Simple things save lives

7km of wide centreline will reduce the risk of head-on crashes in areas where there is heavy traffic, like the approach to Bay View. Widening the centreline has been proven to reduce serious crashes by up to 20 percent.¹



Rumble strips

Your wake-up call

Rumble strips will be applied to the centreline and edgeline in high-risk locations to warn drivers if they stray out of their lane. Rumble strips can reduce fatal run-off-road crashes by up to 42 percent. ²

Guardrail

Providing protection

8km of guardrail along the roadside will stop drivers from hitting something harder like trees, poles or ditches.



Shoulder widening

Room to recover

38km of wide sealed shoulder will be created. A wide sealed road gives you room to recover if you lose control or need to move out of someone's way. This can reduce serious crashes by up to 35 percent.³

Flexible road safety barriers

Your safety net

9km of flexible roadside safety barrier will catch vehicles and stop them running off the road.

3km of flexible road safety barrier will be installed on the centreline between Waipawa and Waipukurau to prevent head-on crashes. Flexible road safety barriers reduce road the number of people killed by up to 90 percent.⁵



Signs and road markings

More signs, fewer crosses

Signs and road markings will be improved

to warn drivers of risks further down the road. The right signs in the right places can reduce crashes by up to 57 percent.⁴

Right turn bay

A safe place to wait

A new right turn bay at the intersection of SH2 and Tapairu Road south will make it safer for drivers entering or exiting Tapairu Road.



- ¹ High Risk Rural Roads Guide, published September 2011, NZ Transport Agency. First Edition.
- ² Page 106, High Risk Rural Roads Guide, published September 2011, NZ Transport Agency. First Edition.
- ³ Page 111, High Risk Rural Roads Guide, published September 2011, NZ Transport Agency. First Edition.
- ⁴ Page 104, High Risk Rural Roads Guide, published September 2011, NZ Transport Agency. First Edition.
 ⁵ Johansson, R. (2009). Vision Zero Implementing a policy for traffic safety. Safety Science. 47(6), 826-

Traffic will be monitored to keep delays to a minimum but there will be short delays at times.

Please allow extra travel time.

Want to know more?

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