



Watchman Road & airport access intersections project



PROGRESS UPDATE

Progress at the Watchman Road site is moving along at a positive pace as we close in on project completion. We look forward to seeing you at our next Connection Group meeting to update you further. This will be held at the Napier NZ Transport Agency office (Studebaker Room), Level 2, Dunvegan House, 215 Hastings Street, Napier on Friday 27 July at 10am.

LANDSCAPING AND ARTWORKS

Landscaping along the Airport Link Road is complete and the majority also complete at the roundabout and along State Highway 2. You will see the fantastic log seating and boardwalks completed as a key feature of this part of the project. The Watchman Road causeway landscaping will be undertaken once the road/cycleway construction is complete. With this said, construction of the boardwalk at the western end of Watchman Road has commenced.

Art is embedded in the overall project with the shape of the kuaka becoming visible from the air. The roundabout is the eye of the bird and the traffic islands form the beak.

Further to this, a number of artworks will start to be installed in the near future including five large pōwhenua, 150 birds and five posts that will represent each marae from Mahia to the Wairarapa. Collectively these features will reinforce the area as a primary gateway into the region.

ROAD WIDENING

State Highway 2 safety improvements and road widening (from the Watchman Road roundabout to the current airport entranceway) have been completed – notably one month ahead of schedule. 800 metres of the 1200 metres of wire rope will be installed along the road median over the coming weeks. The final 400 metres (at the northern extent) will be installed once the current airport entranceway is closed and the new road from the roundabout is fully functional.

WETLANDS

The final planting at the scrape lakes has been undertaken, with positive reports about overall success received from wildlife expert Tony Billing. Particular note is given to the increased wildlife activity within the area with the bird life thriving.

WATCHMAN ROAD CAUSEWAY CONSTRUCTION

Watchman Road Causeway construction is progressing well with the below ground work completed allowing the new alignment to take shape. Work has started on the pavement, including new kerbing.

You may notice a wavy appearance to the road when looking along it. This is a completely intentional feature of the road design. The road has been constructed in this way to ensure appropriate drainage/stormwater runoff and pre-treatment before entering the south pond.

There is still work to complete along the causeway including wildlife fencing, a new boardwalk to connect the cycle paths and new cycle path to be constructed to connect to the roundabout.

The team are on track for completion at the end of August.

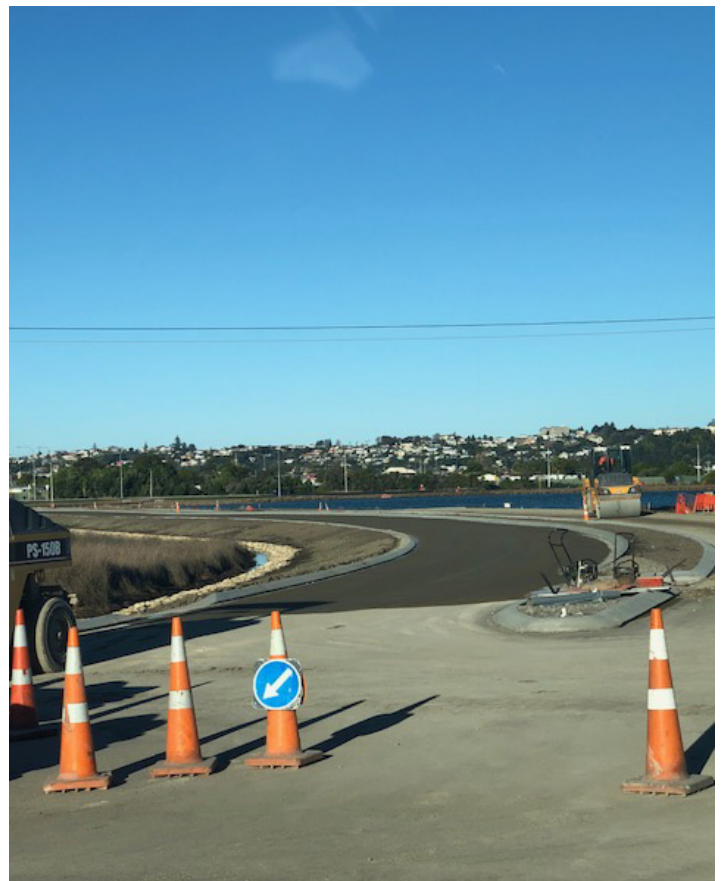
AIRPORT CONNECTION (AT THE AIRPORT END)

The construction works to tie in the new road to the existing Airport Road (at the airport end) is now underway. Work includes widening of the existing roadway, drainage improvements, new water main construction and pavement construction. It is expected to take eight weeks to construct. This work is critical to making the new roadway functional.

GOOD NEWS

The environmental protection and enhancement measures for the project remain very effective. Positive feedback has been received from various experts including Hawke's Bay Regional Council consent compliance staff. The environment is still being regularly monitored.

STAGE	PROGRESS	TENTATIVE COMPLETION
Airport Link Road	Complete	The tie in from the new road to the airport will be August/Sept 2018
SH2 roundabout	Complete	April 2018
Section between the roundabout and Airport Drive	95%	Median barrier in July
Watchman Road	80%	August 2018
Scrape lakes	Complete	July 2018



If you have questions about this project, contact:

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www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh2-watchman-road-intersection/