



State Highway 20A to Airport Improvements

PROJECT UPDATE

September 2017

OFFICIAL OPENING

The Prime Minister Bill English and Minister of Transport Simon Bridges officially opened the \$160m Kirkbride Road interchange and underpass with a ribbon cutting on the morning of Friday 18 August.

About 150 people attended the official opening ceremony, including a group of 20 students from Mangere Central School to support David Wilson who spoke on behalf of mana whenua. The new interchange and underpass will improve safety and journey times through this busy intersection. It will also support future population and business growth and improve the movement of freight around Auckland.

As well as the economic benefits, the improvements will have a significant impact on the local community, which was previously divided by the state highway. The Kirkbride Road bridge will reconnect the Mangere community and enable cyclists and pedestrians to cross the highway safely.



From left: Minister of Transport Simon Bridges, Prime Minister Bill English and Deputy Mayor of Auckland Bill Cashmore display the cut ribbon following the official opening ceremony.



The Prime Minister speaks with children from the local Mangere Central School before the official opening event.

Facts about the underpass

- » 100,000 cubic metres of dirt was excavated to form the underpass.
- » 460 tonnes of temporary steel was used to support the underpass excavation. Each temporary steel prop can hold up to 700 tonnes – that's equivalent to the weight of 3 jumbo jets.
- » 1583 truckloads of concrete was required for the underpass base slabs.
- » 360 screw piles, up to 40 metres long, were installed to anchor the underpass in the water-logged soil.

SH20A/MONTGOMERIE ROAD INTERSECTION

The SH20A/Montgomery Road intersection closed permanently on Tuesday 29 August to separate local traffic from motorway traffic, improving the safety of motorists and journey reliability.

Montgomery Road will become a cul-de-sac and construction will start on a stormwater wetland and footpaths this month.

The construction programme will also extend the Kirkbride cycleway, which was opened in August 2016.

The wetland is expected to be completed in January 2018 and the footpaths and cycleway will open in winter 2018.

LIGHTBOX PANELS

The stunning artwork panels displayed at both ends of the Kirkbride Road vehicle underpass were designed by local iwi artists as a gateway to welcome people to Auckland.

The artwork depicts the Maori creation story of the transition from dark to light and symbolises the attainment of knowledge, Te Po (the night) turns into Te Whaiao (dawn) before emerging as Te ao Marama (the light).

The underpass entrance and exit show a pare (door lintel) of a traditional whare tupuna (ancestral meeting house).

These features acknowledge the mana whenua of Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland) and signify kaitiakitanga (guardianship).

Images shown through the lightbox are key elements of a pare: takarangi spirals represent creation; manaia (mythical creatures) figures at the outer edges represent ira atua (immortal life) and ira tangata (human life); the koruru (carved face) is Ranginui (sky father); and the light represents Te Whaiao.

The panels can be lit in any colour. Blue is most often used as it stands out best during the day.



The artwork lightboxes were turned on after a moving pre-dawn blessing by mana whenua on the morning of Friday 18 August.

TEMPORARY LANDMARK ON THE MOVE

Following the opening of the underpass on SH20A, the 250-tonne crane has been removed from the MHX Kirkbride Alliance site. For two years, the crane has been a temporary landmark at the site and visitors were frequently advised to: 'Hang a right when you get

to the crane!' On 17 August, a dedicated team removed the crane in 8 hours. The boom segments were loaded onto a truck and the crane's tracks, each weighing 23.5t, were removed from the main body for its short journey home to Drury.



The 250 tonne crane shown to the right lifts reinforcing into place in the underpass.

LANDING DRIVE UPGRADE - MAJOR MILESTONES

Landing Drive roundabout will be widened to an 8-lane intersection due to be completed in mid-2018. Major milestones include:

- » **Early October 2017** - opening the southbound left-turn slip lane into Verissimo Drive.
- » **Late November 2017** - removing roundabout and install temporary barriers.
- » **Mid-February 2018** - installing permanent traffic lights and open the intersection.
- » **Late March to late April 2018** - final surfacing and line marking.

FAREWELL TO THE JUNIOR ALLIANCE MANAGEMENT TEAM

As one of the project's closest neighbours, the project team worked closely with Mangere Central School to ensure they had a positive experience and benefitted from the construction taking place nearby.

A student project team was created to mirror the project management team onsite. Each student took a different role, ranging from project or environmental manager to traffic engineer. The student project team regularly visited the site and completed a series of role-specific tasks linked to the project's construction programme. The students kept their peers and school community up-to-date on the project throughout construction.

The students' contribution was invaluable. They were the conduit between the project team and the school community, enabling families to be kept in the loop about the works programme. Having students take an active part in the construction of SH20A to Airport also shared information about the project with the wider Mangere community.

Throughout their time on the Junior AMT, students have boosted their confidence and built their knowledge. Their last role with the project involved performing the waiata *Tutira Mai* and the school haka at the official opening event.

And now, it is time for the project to say goodbye and good luck – poroporoaki me te waimarie pai – tofa ma le manuia – zàijìàn, zhù nǐ hǎo yùn. We wish the students of Mangere Central School all the best for their future endeavours and perhaps some of them will become engineers or surveyors on our construction projects in years to come.



(Left to right) (Back row) Samuel Mikaio, Veronika Troon-Smith, Pupukura Levi Roani, Sala Agalava (Front row) Benjamin Ahomana, Sakimi Vailoa



(Left to right) Benjamin Ahomana, William Langi, Sakimi Vailoa, Sala Agalava, Kelli Sullivan, Veronika Troon-Smith, Byron Glennon, Samuel Mikaio, Vailea Filipine

WELCOME, AMANDA PETHERICK

Amanda Petherick joined the MHX Kirkbride Alliance as Communications and Stakeholder Coordinator in early July and says:

'I am excited to start my time as part of the MHX Kirkbride Alliance team on the SH20A to Airport project. I moved from Christchurch after working for three years in the communications team for the Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT). SCIRT is a team of more than 2000 people who are rebuilding and repairing roads, underground pipes, bridges and other structures damaged in the Canterbury earthquakes.

The work has had a significant impact on thousands of Christchurch residents, many of whom were severely affected by the earthquakes. The biggest thing I learned was to always listen, understand and honestly action any query or concern, regardless of how minor it may seem.

My first two months at the Alliance have been filled with some busy and exciting times. The highlight so far has been meeting with local residents and businesses, and I'm looking forward to doing this more in the coming months.

With the Kirkbride Road underpass open to traffic and the Montgomerie Intersection closed, I will now work with the community on the next phase of construction, which involves completing the shared path, widening the Landing Drive intersection, building the new wetland at Montgomerie Road and finishing work on the local roads.

If you would like to get in contact, please call me on 0508 698 2742 or email amanda.petherick@mhxkirkbride.co.nz.'



Contact us

For more information about the SH20A to Airport Project, contact Barbara Ware, Communications and Stakeholder Manager on sh20a@nzta.govt.nz, 0508 698 2742 or go to www.nzta.govt.nz/sh20atoairport.