

SH3 Manawatū Gorge Replacement Route



MARCH 2018 UPDATE - PREFERRED OPTION

A safe and reliable, high quality road between the Manawatu, Tararua District, Hawke's Bay and northern Wairarapa is essential for the economic wellbeing of New Zealand and our communities.

For many years, this road link was provided by State Highway 3 through the Manawatū Gorge. However, major slips meant the SH3 gorge route was closed on 24 April 2017 due to major damage. Continuing instability of the hillsides in parts of the gorge mean the SH3 gorge route is no longer viable as a safe long-term transport route for the region.

Since the closure of the SH3 gorge route, the NZ Transport Agency has been working with the public, local government, iwi and industry to identify a safe, resilient and efficient replacement. We have investigated the geological, social,

economic and environmental effects of any new road. We have now identified the route that best meets the needs of the community, business and all road users.

The new road, Option 3 from the four shortlisted options, will run from near the western entry of the closed SH3 gorge route, cross the Ruahine Ranges north of the gorge, before emerging near Woodville. This information sheet will show you where the road will go, and describes what will happen next. We will be seeking feedback from you as we continue our work to reconnect the Manawatū, Tararua District, Hawke's Bay and northern Wairarapa.

SH3 Manawatū Gorge Replacement Route



THE PREFERRED OPTION

Option 3 is preferred over the other three short listed routes because it:

- provides the lowest gradient.
- can be constructed 'off-line'.
(without major disruption to other traffic)
- has the lowest risk in terms of ground conditions.
- is quicker to construct than some other options.

ASHHURST

SADDLE ROAD

NEW

OLD

WOODVILLE

CONNECTING THE REGION

The new road would be complementary to and support the development of the Regional Freight Ring Route, planning of which is being progressed in collaboration with local authority and industry representatives.

The proposed ring route, which includes a new bridge across the Manawatū River, could potentially unlock new regional development opportunities. In due course, the community will be consulted about the ring route.

LOCATION DIAGRAM

ROAD FEATURES

- Length:** 12.4km
**from Woodville to Western Gorge entrance*
- Gradient:** Average gradient of 5.8%
- Travel Time:** 13 mins (general), 18 mins (freight)
*(Approximate) *from Woodville to Stoney Creek Road*
- Completion:** 2024
- Safety:** 4-Star **** KiwiRAP





YOUR FEEDBACK

Your feedback is highly valued and informs our decision making. As we enter the consenting phase, we will be looking for more feedback from you.

Your input will help us to refine the design and alignment of the new road, including the local connections near Ashhurst and into Woodville. We will be in touch over the next few months with more details on when and how you can provide feedback to us.

INDICATIVE TIMELINE



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE GORGE?

Te Apiti - Manawatu Gorge is a highly prized destination that offers a range of recreational opportunities in a highly-visited, biodiversity managed and scenic location. Even though the SH3 gorge route is closed, most walkways are open to the public. The NZ Transport Agency will be talking with its partners in Te Apiti - Manawatu Gorge Governance Group (Horizons Regional Council, Taranaki District Council, Department of Conservation) to discuss possible future opportunities arising from the new road development (up to date information on the status of walking tracks can be found at www.teapiti.com).



New Zealand Government

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