



Awakeri to Whakatāne

Proposed safety improvements



We're making your road safer

This stretch of State Highway 30 has been identified as a high-risk rural road. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency will be investing in safety improvements and safer speeds as part of New Zealand's Road to Zero strategy. We're looking at options to make this road safer so everyone living on and using SH30 can get where they are going safely.

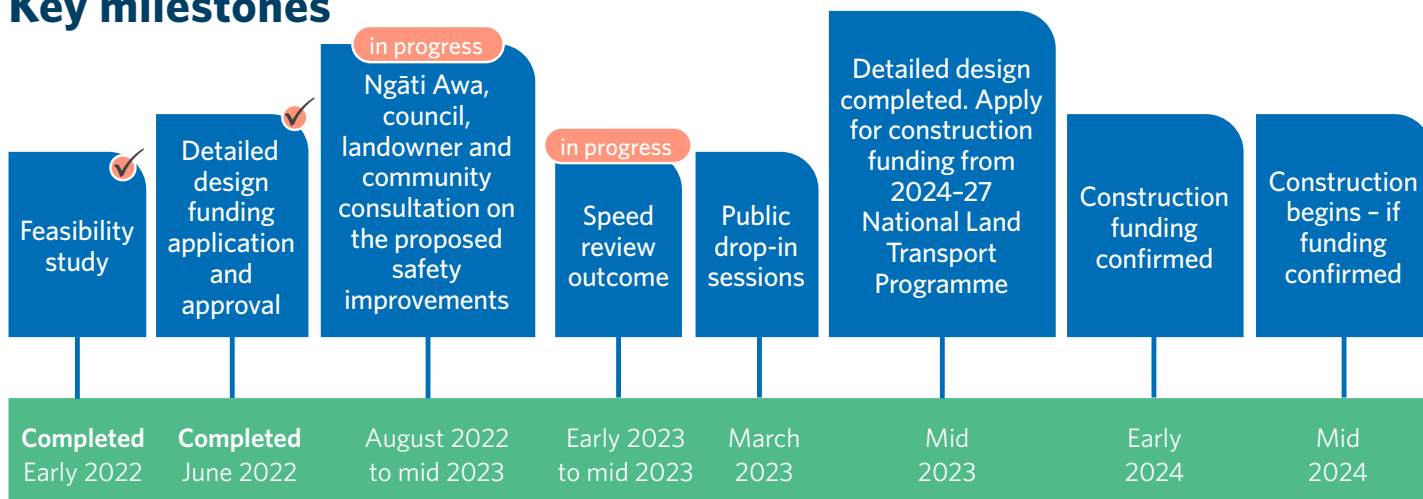
Every day people make mistakes on this road and there are things we can do to make it safer.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is committed to Vision Zero, a vision for Aotearoa New Zealand where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads.

The current data shows the deaths and serious injuries on this state highway are increasing.

Between 2017 and 2021, road crashes killed four people and seriously injured 16 others on SH30 between Awakeri and Whakatāne. Almost half of these crashes were head-on. Between January and November 2022 there was one death and eight serious injuries from six crashes.

Key milestones



How we can make it safer

Last year, we looked at the types and causes of crashes on SH30 and proposed improvements that puts the safety of people first. These improvements mean people will have to change the way they use the road in the future, but they will save lives and reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on this road.

What we can do now

Safer speed limits – a small change in speed can make a big difference to the outcome of a crash. The outcome of the SH30 Tikitere to Whakatāne speed review is expected to be announced in mid-2023 and safer speeds in place soon after.

Proposed safety improvements

- Flexible median barriers to prevent head-on crashes - they are designed to flex when hit, slowing your vehicle and absorbing the impact of the crash.
- Providing wide road shoulders at regular intervals to allow slow vehicles to pull over, so emergency vehicles can pass easily.
- Making some side roads and accessways left in and left out only, so people don't have to cross the busy highway.
- Upgrading key intersections with roundabouts, to make it safer for people to turn on and off the

state highway and provide a turnaround function to support the median barrier.

When flexible median barriers are installed along the centre of the road they prevent head-on crashes and can reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in crashes by 65 percent.

To achieve the greatest safety benefit for the flexible median safety barriers, we need to have as few gaps as possible. This means people accessing the highway from a private access or side road may only be able to turn left unless a safe turnaround area has been provided.

Along this 9.2km stretch, we are proposing three roundabouts to provide safe turnaround areas and to slow traffic through busy intersections.

Roundabouts are proven to be the safest form of intersection control. They will provide safe turnaround areas as part of flexible median barrier installation this stretch of SH30.



We'd like your feedback

We're now in the detailed design process, and to make sure we get it right we need your input on what we are considering.

For the past few months, we've focussed on getting feedback from Iwi and hapū representatives, Whakatāne District Council staff, landowners, businesses, emergency services and other key stakeholders.

We've spoken to most people who live directly along SH30. If you live alongside the road and haven't heard from us, or you can't make one of our public drop-in sessions and you would like to talk directly with our project team, email BOPprojects@nzta.govt.nz

Following that we'll finalise the design and apply for construction funding.

Detailed design is when we take all the information gathered during the feasibility stage of the project, including results from surveying and geotechnical investigations, and use it to create detailed designs of the proposed safety improvements. We also consider all input from mana whenua, council, landowners, key stakeholders and the wider community before finalizing our designs.

What we have heard so far

This road is important to all those in the community. Some feedback gathered during our conversations include:

- It's used by many, from farmers on combine harvesters and tractors to get stock across the road, and police and ambulance drivers getting to emergencies.
- Mill Road intersection is used by many different types of vehicles including high use of heavy vehicles. Why not put a roundabout in? Or could the privatised section of Mill Road through to Phoenix Road be used as a public road again?
- Thornton Road intersection is dangerous, and a roundabout would be welcomed.
- The Shaw Road intersection with SH30 is dangerous and the speed limit is too fast.
- How will the barriers work and make it safer? How will other road users access the road?
- Why are median barriers needed for this part SH30?
- How will the project support future development (industrial, commercial, or residential) along SH30?
- What's being done to fix the road surface now?



This map is not to scale and indicative only.

Public drop-in sessions

Come along and meet the team - and find out more about the proposed safety improvements at our public drop-in sessions.

We're keen to hear how you use the road, and if there are any changes that we should consider as part of the detailed design process.

There will also be an opportunity to talk with Whakatāne District Council about other related projects in the same area.

We are holding multiple sessions, so pick a time that suits you. All are welcome. There will be activities for children.

Thursday 30 March

11.30am - 2pm

Awakeri Events Centre, SH30 Awakeri

3pm - 6pm

Awakeri Events Centre, SH30 Awakeri

Friday 31 March

8am - 10am

Gateway Theatre, 30 Gateway Drive, Whakatāne

11.30am - 2pm

Gateway Theatre, 30 Gateway Drive, Whakatāne

Working together

Waka Kotahi and Whakatāne District Council are working together on plans for this section of the state highway, allowing for future aspirations, coordinating activities and identifying opportunities to collaborate, on both current and potential projects. This includes general road maintenance activities to long term growth and development.



Keep up to date

Sign up for updates and find out more at nzta.govt.nz/sh30awakeri2whk

Get in touch - email
bopprojects@nzta.govt.nz