



Awakeri to Whakatāne

Proposed safety improvements



SH30 near Awakeri

The journey to Whakatāne can be made 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.

Options are currently being considered to make SH30 Awakeri to Whakatāne safer.

This area has been identified for prioritised investment in proven safety improvements and safer speeds.

Between 2016 and 2020, there were two people killed and 16 seriously injured on this stretch of SH30.

Most of these crashes were head-on, involve drivers running off the road, and were speed related.

This area has been identified for prioritised investment in proven safety improvements and safer speeds on our state highways.

The improvements are being delivered as part of Road to Zero, which aims to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads by 40 per cent by 2030.

The safety improvements we are proposing will save lives and reduce the number of people seriously injured and, we need your help.

How we can make it safer

Last year, we investigated a range of safety improvements for SH30, between the intersection with SH2 at Awakeri through to Phoenix Drive in Whakatāne.

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

Every day people make mistakes on the road and there are things we can do to make it safer. We are considering:

Short term

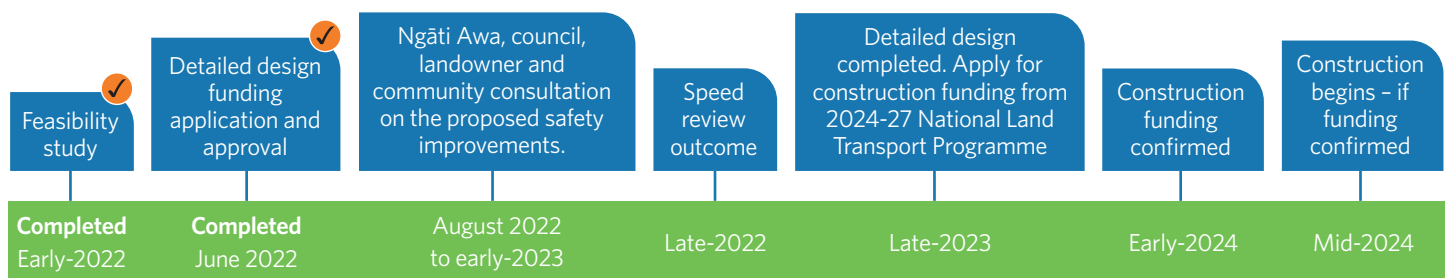
- Safer speed limits – a small change in speed can make a big difference to the outcome of a crash.

Long term

- Road widening to allow space for new flexible median safety barriers to prevent head-on crashes. They are designed to flex when hit, slowing your vehicle and absorbing the impact of the crash.
- Making some side roads and accessways left in and left out, so people don't have to cross the busy 100km/h highway.
- Upgrading key intersections — such as roundabouts, to make it safer for people to turn on and off the state highway at key locations.

By making these changes such as roundabouts we can significantly reduce the severity of crashes if they do occur.

Key milestones



What to expect

Over the coming months, we will be engaging with Ngāti Awa, key stakeholders including emergency services, landowners along the highway, businesses and the wider community.

We will be hosting landowner meetings, engagement opportunities for businesses and the public. Your feedback is important and will inform the detailed design. These events will be advertised.

You can also expect to see initial site investigations, including some drilling into the ground by our geotech teams and surveying.

What about speed?

We consulted on safer speed limits in February 2022 and heard concerns from the community about this stretch of highway and some of the intersections.

This feedback also helped us understand some of the current issues with the road and what we could do to make it safer.

An announcement on the outcome of the SH30 Tikitere to Whakatāne speed review can be expected in the coming months.

Even when speed doesn't cause a crash, it's what will most likely determine whether anyone is killed, injured, or walks away unharmed from that crash.

Safer speed limits are something we can do now to improve safety, as the physical safety improvements, if funded, will take some time to build.

We know physical improvements, in conjunction with safer speeds, will make this stretch of SH30 safer and reduce the chance of people being killed or seriously injured.

Proposed safety improvements



Keep up to date

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

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