

Making the road between Wairakei and the SH5/SH38 intersection at Rainbow Mountain safer



Too many people are dying and being seriously injured on State Highway 5 (SH5) between Wairakei and SH38 so we're making it safer for everyone who uses it.

We're focusing on three risky sections of the road: the northern end at Waiotapu, centrally (around Mihi and the Waikato River) and at the southern end at Wairakei.

Between 2006 and 2015, 12 people died and 42 were seriously injured on this stretch of highway. Many of these crashes were head-on collisions or involved vehicles running off the road.

How are we making it safer?

To help prevent further crashes like this we're planning to:

- » **widen the road shoulder** to give drivers more room to recover if they veer off the road
- » **add roadside safety barriers** to protect people from hazards like trees, ditches and fences if their vehicle leaves the road
- » **widen the centreline** to help keep vehicles apart, reducing the risk of head-on crashes
- » **improve signage and road markings** to alert drivers to oncoming hazards and make the road easier to read.



Wide centrelines

Widening the centreline is a simple way to steer drivers away from each other. More space between lanes can reduce serious crashes by up to 20 percent.*

Roadside safety barriers

Barriers stop your vehicle before you hit something harder - like a tree, ditch or a power pole.



These safety improvements are part of the Safe Roads and Roadsides Programme that's underway to prevent deaths and serious injuries on our rural roads.

*Page 111, High-risk rural roads guide, published September 2011, NZ Transport Agency. First Edition.

Share your views

Locals know the road better than anyone so we're keen to hear what you think about the safety improvements we're planning. We'll be in your area soon to talk you through the plans, answer questions and listen to your views. You can also view the plans and give feedback on our website.

Local business owners Shenshen Guan and Russell Berry (pictured) are keen to see safety improvements made to the road.



What's happening and when?

Over the next few months, we'll refine the designs, taking your feedback into account. Construction of the northern section is due to start by the end of the year and should be complete by next spring. If we are installing barriers near your property, we'll be in touch to arrange a time to meet with you to discuss this. At this stage we are looking to begin construction on the central and Wairakei sections in late 2019/early 2020.



Speed through Waiotapu

We know that the current 100km/h speed limit through Waiotapu is an issue. Locals have told us about the near misses they've witnessed and experienced, and we've spoken to local transport representatives, business owners and councils about their concerns. We expect to be able to undertake formal consultation on proposed lower speed limits shortly so we'll keep you up to date with progress on this.

Stay in touch

Help us keep you up to date by signing up to receive email updates at nzta.govt.nz/wairakei-sh38

COME AND SEE US

Tuesday 23 October

Reporoa War Memorial Hall
Broadlands Road, Reporoa
5pm to 7pm
Bring the kids along for a free soft serve icecream

Wednesday 24 October

Taupō District Council
46 Horomatangi Street, Taupō
12pm to 2pm

Thursday 25 October

Te Manawa
Tutanekai Street, Rotorua
12pm to 2pm

Friday 26 October

Mihi School Hall
76 Springs Road, Reporoa
2.30pm to 4pm
Bring the kids along for a free soft serve icecream

Can't make it and want to share your views? Get in touch

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nzta.govt.nz/wairakei-sh38-have-your-say