



Taipā Bridge replacement project

PROJECT UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2017



The temporary traffic lights controlling the flow of vehicles over Taipā Bridge will be in place as usual this summer.

The Taipā Bridge, located on State Highway 10, is being replaced by a new two-lane bridge as part of roading and town centre improvements and will help support growing tourism in Northland.

Located on the Twin Coast Discovery Highway, Taipā was the first landing place of Kupe and attracts large numbers of visitors over the summer months.

The bridge is an important link for communities in the Far North. Upgrading Taipā Bridge to a two lane bridge will enable it to cope better with growing traffic volumes.

The replacement of the bridge provides opportunities to improve safety through Taipā and enhance the township through urban design and landscaping opportunities that recognise the cultural significance of the area.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO TAIPĀ

Through ongoing consultation with hapu, Taipā Area School and the Taipā community, this is what we have been told is most important:

- » Improved pedestrian safety in Taipā, particularly for children.
- » The health of the waterways (awa) to be protected and enhanced.
- » The rich history and cultural heritage to be protected and enhanced.

IMPROVED SAFETY AND SPEED LIMITS

The Transport Agency and the Far North District Council (FNDC) are reviewing speed limits in the Taipā area. Changes being considered include a 50km/h speed limit through the town and a 40km/h speed limit outside Taipā Area School. Any change would be subject to consultation and approvals.

Safety improvements for the township will include a median strip, planting and pedestrian crossings. Traffic tables (similar to traffic humps) will also be installed on the entrance of Oruru Road, Taipā Point Road and Mamaru Road. These improvements will help to slow traffic down.

HEALTH OF THE WATERWAYS

The Transport Agency's project team have worked closely with hapu to identify how the Taipā Bridge project could potentially affect the health of the waterways.

Work has been done to ensure that the building of the new bridge embankment will have little impact on the coastal marine environment. The project team will regularly monitor water quality throughout construction.

As part of the project, the Transport Agency, FNDC and the Ministry of Education are teaming up to look at stormwater improvements at Taipā Area School. The Transport Agency is also working with FNDC and hapu on initiatives that could improve the quality of water leaving the nearby wastewater treatment plant particularly during high use periods and after heavy rain, before it enters the waterways. The Transport Agency is working with the Northland Regional Council to look at wider catchment improvement measures.

Hapu representatives have been introduced to experts from around New Zealand whose focus is on cleaning up waterways so that a long term plan for improving water quality can be developed for Taipā.

HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Ngāti Kahu traditions record many events and deeds associated with Kupe's presence in their rohe, such as his landing at Ikatiritiri in Taipā. He was attracted by the abundance of shellfish and fish which provided food for his people.

A pouwhenua was erected as a monument to him and his descendants. It was later replaced with a monument to honour fallen hapu soldiers.

Representatives from the Hapu Integration Group¹ and kaumatua and taumata from other hapu are working with the project team to ensure the cultural significance of the area is understood and reflected in action and design.

1. Matakairiri Haukainga, Ngati Whata, Ngati Tara, Matarahurahu, Te Paatu ki Kaukanga, Te Paatu Ki Teretere, Haititai Marangai, Ngati Moroki Aputerewa/Ngati Takora, Ngati Urunga.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION DAY AND BBQ SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER

Come along to our community information day, meet the project team and learn more about the construction work starting soon. We will be on the foreshore behind the Taipā Ramada Resort from 11am to 3pm. There will be BBQ sausages on offer between midday and 1pm or until we run out – see you there.

DAWN BLESSING AND SOD TURNING

More than 200 guests attended the Taipā dawn blessing and sod turning on Friday 29 September. It was a day of high emotion and great importance for hapu as they decommissioned the memorial erected in memory of those iwi and hapu who gave their lives for this country, and handed the land over to the Transport Agency to commence work.

Construction on the new two lane bridge will begin in December 2017.



Turning the first sod, from left to right: Colin Kitchen, Far North District Councillor; Phillipa Lambert, Ngati Tara Hapu Taipā Area School; Paul Davis, Northland Inc; Wiremu Poharama, Ngati Kahu; Jim Sephton, Transport Agency. Photo: Malcolm Pullman

TAIPĀ AREA SCHOOL CAREERS DAY

Members of the Taipā Bridge team attended the Taipā Area School Careers Day to talk with the pupils about their respective career paths and current jobs.

The first of its kind for the school, it was considered to be very successful. The school is hoping this will become an annual event to assist pupils with making subject choices as they progress through their school years. It could also help with identifying prospective tertiary study options and careers to work towards.

Jenny Scott said, 'It was wonderful to spend time with pupils who had been so well prepared by teachers and whanau to make the most of this exciting event. Our team enjoyed sharing our varied work stories and learning from the next generation about what interests and motivates them. We'd love to be invited back for 2018's Careers Day.'



From left to right: Brooke Jamieson (archaeologist), Janelle Lamrock (engineer), Evan Tareha (construction manager), Jenny Scott (communication and stakeholder liaison), Sean Ryder (project manager), Trudy Allen (Matakairi Hapu lead) and Dave Poharama Copisarow (Hapu designer) Photo: Trudy Allen



Careers Day – Photo: Sean Ryder



PROJECT CONTACTS

Please contact Jenny Scott 0800 900 007 or jenny.scott@fultonhogan.com
Keep up with progress at: www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/connecting-northland/twin-coast-discovery-route/taipa-bridge/

