



Gearing up for the summer construction season

Our state highways will be busy this construction season (from around October to March) with a raft of projects funded by Kānoa – the Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit.

To improve resilience along SH35, the key sites we will be focusing on are:

- SH35 Kopuaroa Hill improvements: road realignment
- SH35 Turihaua Point and Pouawa: rock protection
- SH35 Busby's Hill improvements: soil removal to stabilise slope, installation of retaining wall and new southbound slow vehicle bay.

To improve safety and passing opportunities along SH35 and SH2, the key sites we will be focusing on include:

- SH35 Tatapouri Hill slow vehicle bay
- SH35 Puketiti Hill slow vehicle bay extension
- SH2 Mohaka Viaduct ascent southbound slow vehicle bay
- SH2 Otoko Hill southbound seal widening
- SH2 Waikoau Hill slow vehicle bay extension.

Kopuaroa Hill improvements get underway



Enabling works at Kopuaroa are underway

Enabling works, including tree felling and power pole relocation, are now complete on a project to stabilise SH35 at Kopuaroa Hill, approximately 10km north of Te Puia Springs.

This was required before starting the main improvements, which will involve cutting into the uphill embankment and moving the road onto more stable ground.

Waka Kotahi is engaging with key partners and stakeholders and will soon confirm a start date for the main work.

Coastal protection at Turihaua Point and Pouawa



Coastal erosion at Turihaua Point in April 2022

Resilience work will soon begin at Turihaua Point and Pouawa. This involves rock revetment – a way of absorbing the energy from waves and water that prevents and reduces coastal erosion. Consenting has taken longer than expected due to the coastal environment, but we expect our teams to be in there as soon as consent is granted.

Waikoau Hill slow vehicle bay

Contractors are back in action at Waikoau Hill, near Tūtira, working hard to extend a slow vehicle bay on SH2.

Since mid-August, Russell Roads has been installing erosion protection on the cliff faces, and completing drainage and pavement works. Once finished, the slow vehicle bay will be 360 metres, giving drivers plenty of space to pass. The project will take around 7 weeks to complete and will run until early October. A 30km/h speed limit and stop/go traffic management will be in place between 7am and 7pm. Expect delays of up to 5 minutes. After 7pm, the shoulder will remain closed and the speed limit will be 50 to 70km/h.

Mohaka Viaduct slow vehicle bay

Contractors have been busy felling trees on SH2 near the iconic Mohaka Viaduct between Napier and Wairoa.

It's the first step toward a new slow vehicle bay for the southbound lane, which will improve driver journeys from March 2023.

Emergency works update

- A collapsed retaining wall between Tangoio and White Pine Bush has been reinstalled, and repairs to the large slip at Waikoau Hill, north of Napier, are scheduled to start in early October. This work will take around 8 weeks to complete, and we aim to reopen the road to 2 lanes in early December.



Slip on SH2 at Waikoau Hill

- We are finalising plans to repair the steep underslip south of White Pine Bush, between Tangoio and Tūtira, with construction getting underway in early November.
- SH35 Makarori is progressing well, despite weather challenges. The retaining wall should be completed by mid-September with final earthworks and planting completed by the end of the month.
- SH2 Matawai, affected by an underslip following heavy rain in July, was reinstated to the full road width in mid-August and is now open to all vehicles.
- Work on the drop-out at SH35 Huia Hill has also been completed.
- SH35 Motu River mouth is expected to open to all traffic from mid-September.

Keep up to date

For more information on roading projects around the East Coast, check out nzta.govt.nz/projects/connecting-tairawhiti or sign up to the Connecting Tairāwhiti e-newsletter at connectingtairawhiti@nzta.govt.nz