

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Rotorua Site Tour
Date	12 August 2022
Briefing number	BRI-2565

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
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Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

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12 August 2022

Hon Michael Wood – Minister of Transport

Rotorua Site Tour

Purpose

1. This briefing updates you on key projects and transport matters ahead of your visit to Rotorua on 17 August 2022.

Background and context section

2. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is working with Rotorua Lakes Council to futureproof two of the city's key transport networks: SH30/Te Ngae Road and SH30A/Amohau Street. This programme of work is called Connect Rotorua.
3. Connect Rotorua is designed to improve Rotorua's transport network by creating a safe and sustainable network that supports community wellbeing and makes people's daily journeys more enjoyable.
4. Rotorua is regionally important to the Bay of Plenty, with nearly half the country's population living within 300km of the city. It is within a 1.5-hour commute from the university city of Hamilton, and the coastal city of Tauranga where New Zealand's largest export port is located.
5. Creating a safer and more efficient transport network attracts tourists and helps support local tourism and economic growth.
6. This work also supports the significant development which is planned for eastern Rotorua.

SH30/33 Te Ngae Junction

7. The purpose of this project is to make the busy SH30/SH33 Te Ngae intersection safer. Waka Kotahi is doing this by:
 - constructing a single-lane roundabout at the SH30/SH33 Te Ngae intersection to slow down vehicle speeds and make it safer and easier for people to turn
 - adding a new right turn bay at the SH30/Rangiteaorere Road intersection to make it safer to get to Mātaikōtare
 - using Rangiteaorere Road as a bypass for cyclists heading north, safely separating them from vehicles at the roundabout
 - upgrading the roadside barriers around the roundabout to protect people from roadside hazards including the Waiohewa Stream
 - building a retaining wall to support the roundabout construction to the west of the intersection and reduce impact on nearby properties.

8. The outcomes sought from this project are lower vehicle speeds, less severity if crashes do occur, improved right-turn movements and improved safety for cyclists.
9. Construction is expected to be complete in early 2023.

Eastern Corridor – Stage Two

10. The first phase between Iles Road and Coulter Road received \$35 million from the Government's Crown Infrastructure Partners funding for construction to support growth and development in Eastside Rotorua. The project is expected to take about 22 months to complete and addresses safety and connectivity, while accommodating for future growth and providing better travel choices.
11. Phase One key improvements include:
 - raised safety platforms at Tennyson Drive, Tumene Drive and Brent Road (complete)
 - upgrades to key intersections at Wharenui Road, Ōwhata Road and Basley Road
 - new three-metre-wide shared path and separate on-road cycle lane
 - four lanes between Iles and Basley Roads, and Brent and Ōwhata Roads
 - new pedestrian crossings, bus stops and safety improvements.
12. Enabling works for these improvements got underway in mid-June 2022.
13. The upgrade aims to:
 - improve local connectivity
 - increase the number of people walking and cycling
 - improve reliability of bus services
 - improve better access to walking and cycling opportunities
 - support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
14. Phases Two and Three will be dictated by the growth and development of Rotorua. Both of these phases are currently unfunded.

SH30 Eastern Corridor Stage One

15. The Eastern Corridor Stage One project includes the section of SH30/Te Ngae Road from Sala Street to Iles Road.
16. The project was completed in March 2022 and included:
 - removal of the Tarawera Road roundabout and installation of traffic lights
 - an additional lane northbound between Tarawera and Iles Roads
 - solid centre median between Tarawera and Iles Roads

- new watermain installed along both sides of road
- upgraded the existing pedestrian underpass under the Puarenga Bridge
- upgraded the Sala Street intersection and shared pathways.

17. The project improves connectivity for people walking and cycling, addresses safety, and makes it easier to move around with the new signalised Tarawera Road/Te Ngae Road intersection.

SH5 Tarukenga to Ngongotahā

18. With the focus on making the highway safer and reducing congestion at the roundabout, this project was completed in March 2022.

19. The SH5 improvements completed include:

- road widening and roadside and median safety barriers at high-risk locations on SH5
- a wide centreline as well as centreline and edge line rumble strips
- signs and road markings to warn drivers of risks they need to prepare for further down the road, such as intersections, stop signs or sharp curves
- shortening of the existing passing lane by approximately 700m to provide safer merging for vehicles prior to the Tarukenga Road intersection.

SH5/SH36 roundabout upgrade

20. The roundabout has been upgraded with an extra lane in all directions around the roundabout, as well as when approaching, entering, and exiting the roundabout, to address morning and afternoon peak-time traffic flow and improve efficiency.

21. Other improvements include:

- a slip lane for west bound (Hamilton) traffic
- updated road line markings, lighting, signage and wider sealed shoulders.



SH30 and SH5 Urban Rotorua speed review

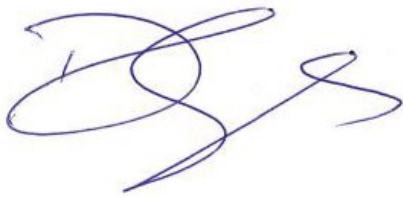
22. Consultation on safer speed limits in urban Rotorua closed April 2021. After finalising the analysis of the submissions and our technical assessments relating to the state highway, a decision has been made to implement most of the proposed speeds. The announcement of the outcome of the speed review is expected in the coming weeks. This speed review will be well received and supported.

SH30 Rotorua airport

23. Rotorua Lakes Council is interested in upgrading the entrance into the airport by building a roundabout. This section of SH30 falls within the Eastern Corridor Stage Two project. However, further progression of the Stage 2 project is dependent on future growth and development along the corridor. The Council has been advised there is currently no ability to fund improvements, or to retrospectively refund the cost of the improvements. Any upgrade would be at Rotorua Lakes Council's, the airport's and/or the developer's cost; however, Waka Kotahi would support the work.

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing



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David Speirs

Director Regional Relationships (Waikato/Bay of Plenty)

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Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

Date: 2022