

# 1 Project update

June 2015



Planting at Pickering Road Bridge.

## Planting progress

Landscaping is underway on the Cambridge section of the Waikato Expressway with 365,000 plants to be planted across the section.

That equates to nearly 20 plants for every person in Cambridge. Planting started in April at the northern end of the project around Pickering Road and will continue south in the following weeks. It is expected to be complete around October.

NZ Transport Agency's senior project manager Raj Rajagopal, says landscaping on the Cambridge section is not just about improving the look and feel of the project, it also has an important ecological impact.

"The team are planting a mix of native and exotic species. A lot of that planting is going to be happening around the interchanges on the project and in the Karapiro Gully. The planting helps to replace habitat and also ensures the ecological environment is maintained."

"Planting in the Karapiro Gully includes not only restoration planting but also the replacement of native bat habitat with fast growing poplar and

slower growing oak trees."

At the northern end of the project the team will create a "green link" maintaining the character of large exotic specimen trees, while at the southern end a green urban boundary will be planted.

A big focus will be the Victoria Road interchange which will become the gateway into Cambridge once the section is open.

"We wanted to foster a sense of place and arrival. The Victoria Road interchange will have structured rows of exotic trees beside the on and off ramps to provide the transition between the expressway and Victoria Road," Mr Rajagopal said.

Exotic trees being used across the project include Oak trees, Horse Chestnut, Poplars, London Plane and Japanese Silk oak. Natives include Kahikatea and Totara.

## Cambridge section community planting day



On Saturday 5 September 2015, the NZ Transport Agency and HEB Construction would like to invite you to be part of creating the new gateway to Cambridge at the Victoria Road interchange.

Help to plant the area around the interchange for future generations to enjoy.

TIME	WHAT'S HAPPENING
9am	Visitor Centre opens
9.30am	Victoria Interchange area opens for planting. Project staff will be on hand to assist you onto site
1pm	Visitor Centre closes and planting day ends

Parking is at the Visitor Centre carpark, 129 Victoria Road.

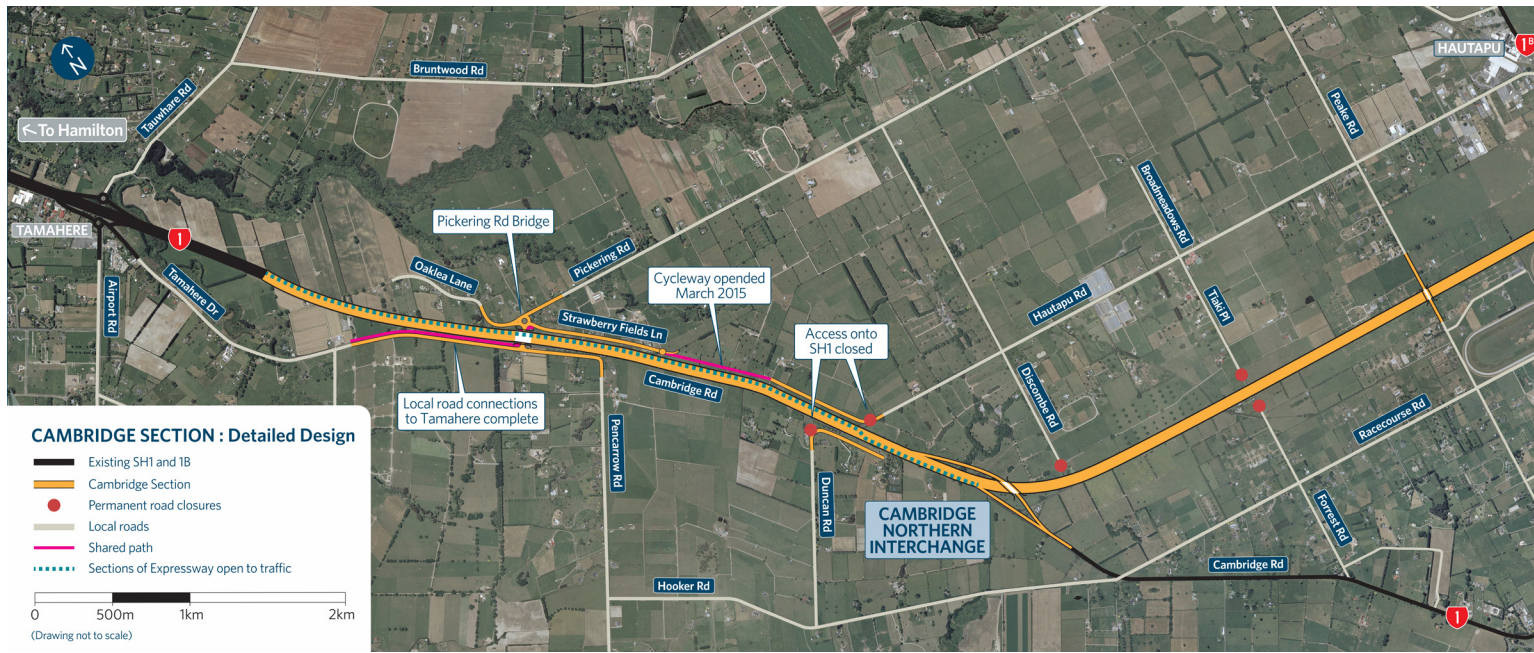
**Register your interest at:**  
[www.nzta.govt.nz/cambridge](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/cambridge)

Planting of the new interchange will include a mixture of natives and Oaks. Holes will be pre-dug and plants will be provided for those who would like to take part.



The landscaping team planting at the northern end of the project.





## PRIME MINISTER JOHN KEY VISITS CAMBRIDGE

Prime Minister John Key stopped into the Cambridge section Visitor Information Centre on April 27 while visiting MP Louise Upston’s electorate. Mr Key was in Cambridge to open the new Giltrap AgriZone site just down the road from the Visitor Centre.

The project team were proud to show him around the site office at Victoria Road and give him an update on the project, which is tracking well ahead of schedule. Half of the bridges on the project are now complete and the project team can see the finish line looming, possibly before the end of the year, depending on how the winter season goes.

Top: Members of the project team meet Prime Minister John Key. Bottom: Prime Minister John Key and MP Louise Upston at the Visitor Centre.



## Half of the bridges complete



Half of the bridges on the Cambridge section of the Waikato Expressway are now complete with Swayne Road Bridge opening to traffic on May 15. NZ Transport Agency, Senior Project Manager, Raj Rajagopal said HEB Construction was making great progress on the project with an earlier than planned opening now looking likely.

“We still have a winter works season to get through but everything is looking really good out there for an earlier than planned opening, possibly even before the end of the year,” Mr Rajagopal said.

Swayne Road is the fourth of eight bridges on the section to open. Peake Road, Pickering Road and Thornton Road have already been opened to traffic. Swayne Road bridge was blessed by mana whenua Ngaati Koroki Kahukura and Ngaati Hauaa and given its official name of Parawhau earlier this month.

Parawhau Paa was the last settlement of Ngaati Hauaa in Cambridge, located in the Fencourt and French Pass area. The Maori chiefs Te Werewere and his nephew Te Oro lived at both Parawhau Paa and Maunganui which is in close proximity to the Whitehall area.





## Temporary speed limits

Motorists driving through road works sites often wonder why speed restrictions are in place and what they are there for, even if no one appears to be working.

Temporary speed limits (TSLs) are implemented to protect both road workers and motorists from hazards associated with work happening on our roads.

The speed limit varies depending on the degree of risk. The higher the risk is, the lower the speed limit. There are a number of factors that need to be considered when choosing the limit:

- Loose stones on a sealed road which has been repaired or reconstructed
- If the safety of road workers could be affected
- The surface of the road is being sealed
- Workers or equipment are operating in traffic lanes
- The road width is reduced resulting in narrower lanes than on adjacent sections of road.

The Cambridge section has a number of TSLs in place across the project. Currently on the state highway network we have three:

- SH1 at Tamahere 80km/h
- SH1B/Victoria Road 50km/h
- SH1 Golf Hill 70km/h

## Changes to road names

The Cambridge section bisects a number of local roads in both the Waikato and Waipa Districts. This has meant a number of local road layout changes along the length of the section and some road name changes.

In Waipa District, Forrest Road, Hannon Road and Watkins Road are all stopped on either side of the expressway.

In Waikato District, direct access onto State Highway 1 has been stopped for Duncan Road, Pencarrow Road, Pickering Road, Tamahere Drive, Hautapu Road and Discombe Road.

Access to the expressway for residents in this area is now from the Tamahere interchange.

The Waipa District Council recently resolved to rename the bisected roads in the district. The section north of the expressway up to Hautapu Road, has been renamed Tiaki Place. Tiaki is a Maori name meaning 'to support, take care of, give hospitality to, protect, look out for'.

Hannon Road south of the expressway has been renamed

Abergeldie Way in recognition of the heritage listed building on the road.

Watkins Road north of the expressway has been renamed Wells Place. Mervyn Wells was the first Cambridge born Mayor.

The section north of the expressway and north of Hautapu Road will change to Broadmeadows Road. Broadmeadows was the estate between Peake Road and Discombe Road and features strongly in local history.

*Did you know?*

*There are about 4000 traffic cones on site and 300 traffic signs in use*

## Expressway overview

The Cambridge section is part of the larger Waikato Expressway programme of work. The Waikato Expressway is one of seven Roads of National Significance for New Zealand.

### Sections update

- Longswamp - Construction 2016-2018
- Rangiriri - Under construction, opens late 2016 or 2017
- Huntly - Construction 2015-2019
- Ngaruawahia - Opened December 2013
- Te Rapa - Opened December 2012
- Hamilton - Construction 2016-2020
- Cambridge - Under construction opens 2016



## Cambridge section: a safe system

The Cambridge section of the Waikato Expressway adopts a Safe System approach to road design. It works on the principle that it is not acceptable for a road user to be killed or seriously injured if they make a mistake on our roads.

Research from Scandinavia and South Australia shows that even if all road users complied with road rules, fatalities would only fall by around 50% and injuries by 30%. So if everyone obeyed the road rules, New Zealand would still potentially have more than 130 deaths on the road each year.

The Safe System approach looks beyond the driver. It identifies and addresses all the causes of crash trauma because serious crashes are potentially system failures.

A safe road system means that all parts of the system will be much safer than they are now.

**Vehicles** will have advanced safety features, including electronic stability control, front and side curtain airbags and better maintenance of tyres and brakes.

**Roads and roadsides** will be safer because the planning and design will make them more forgiving of errors. Surfaces will be improved and road-side hazards removed or barriers installed.

**Speed** will be managed to survivable levels through a wide range of techniques such as greater use of technology and speed limits that are appropriate for the road.

**Road users** will be alert and aware of the risks, and drive or ride to the conditions.

The Cambridge section includes road-sides clear of potential hazards, wire rope barriers and frangible light posts.

Wire rope barrier extends the full length of the project.



*As well as asking  
'Why did that driver  
crash into the power  
pole?'*  
**We now ask**  
*'Why does that  
power pole need to  
be there and how can  
it be made safer?'*

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