



Cambridge project update

September 2015



Northern interchange

NORTHERN SECTION ALMOST COMPLETE

The first 4km of the Cambridge section of the Waikato Expressway is almost complete.

In mid-September, the Northern interchange bridge opened to traffic for the first time, taking south-bound State Highway 1 traffic up and over the Expressway, while traffic heading towards Hamilton is now travelling on one of the north-bound Expressway lanes.

The Transport Agency's Hamilton highways manager, Kaye Clark, says the opening of the bridge means 4km of the Cambridge section, between the existing Tamahere interchange and the Northern interchange, is almost complete.

"This is an exciting milestone that's comes two years into construction," she says.

"Work is going well on the rest of the Cambridge section and weather dependent, the entire 16km length could be open in time for Christmas.

"The project team will have a clear picture in mid-October, when we hope to announce an opening date to the public."

The bridge was blessed by mana whenua Ngaati Koroki Kahukura and Ngaati Hauaa before it was opened to traffic and was given its official name, Te Koopu Maania. Te Koopu Maania (o Kirikiriroa) is part of a waiata by Tawhiao explaining the smooth surface of the womb of Papatuaanuku (Mother earth) before food crops were planted. This area was well known for garden cultivation, agricultural activities

and food supply. A large number of borrow pits were identified along the pathway of this part of the Cambridge section.

The 4km section will remain under an 80km/h speed limit until the entire section opens.

"Because we're only opening a 4km stretch we will maintain the speed restrictions and one lane in each direction until the entire project is completed to ensure motorists travel safely through this area," Mrs Clark says.

"It is a constantly changing environment and we ask that people continue to respect the traffic management and speed restrictions as we work towards opening the whole road."

Approximately 60 per cent of the current traffic using SH1 is expected to shift onto the new Expressway once it is open. The Victoria Road interchange will be the new gateway to Cambridge off the Expressway.

As part of wider works associated with the Cambridge section, work will start early next year to upgrade the intersection of SH1 and SH1B in Cambridge. A study is also under way to assess the existing SH1, between Tamahere and Cambridge, and decide what works need to happen to this stretch of road once the Expressway is open. This work also looks at the intersection of SH1 and Hooker Road.

Bat mitigation planting day

The Tamahere-Mangaone Gully Restoration Trust is undertaking a project to restore a section of weed infested gully immediately down-stream of the Alan Turner bridge over the Mangaone Stream (end of Woodcock Road, Tamahere).

Contractor HEB Construction is supporting this project by supplying native trees to be replanted into the gully. On Tuesday 11 August, children from Tamahere Model Country School worked with members of the Tamahere-Mangaone Gully Restoration Trust to plant 240 native trees. Eventually these trees will provide valuable habitat for native animals including the endangered native long tailed bat (Pekapeka).

Children were given a talk about long tailed bats and ecology by HEB Construction staff and Trust members. Hautapu School is also contributing to this project with additional planting to be undertaken.

On Tuesday 15 September, children from Hautapu School planted Kowhai plants which they grew from seedlings for the project.

This is a great example of how dedicated residents who care about their local environment can collaborate with a large infrastructure project to generate a positive impact within the community.



Safety reminder

NZ Transport Agency and HEB Construction would like to remind all road users to travel safely through the site and be aware of the temporary traffic management.

The Tamahere section / northern end of the project has traffic management that has been specifically tailored to the section.

- The site has a temporary speed limit of 80km/h with repeater signs at 400m spacings.
- Cones are placed on both shoulders to reinforce that construction activity is in progress.
- There are two-way arrows signs at 400m spacings.
- There are direction arrows painted on the lanes at 400m spacings.
- Double yellow centre lines.
- Safe hit posts have been erected at 40m spacings to divide north and south-bound traffic.

Before the project opens to the public, independent auditors will undertake a road safety audit over the entire length of the project. The project will not be officially opened until the road is deemed safe.



Progress to date

As of September 2015, the Cambridge section has been under construction for 2 years! Below are some pictures showing the progress we have made since breaking ground in 2013.



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