



Puhoi to Wellsford



Update

Newsletter 02 - June 2010

Consultation underway - have your say before 26 July 2010

Your views are wanted as part of the first phase of consultation for the Puhoi to Wellsford road of national significance. So far some key principles about the highway have been established, but we need your feedback before any detailed planning gets underway.

"The proposed Puhoi to Wellsford highway is essential to improve the inter-regional connection which will help develop economic productivity for both freight and tourism. Your support is vital in achieving this." Wayne McDonald
Regional Director - Auckland & Northland

Your knowledge is needed

Local knowledge is important. Please tell us about the area where you live, or your community that you think should be taken into account in fixing a route for the new highway. More information inside.

Improving safety for those driving between Auckland and Wellsford is just one of the goals of the new Puhoi to Wellsford highway project.



Project goals

As one of the roads of national significance, the Puhoi to Wellsford project will:

- Enhance inter-regional and national economic growth and productivity
- Improve movement of freight and people between Auckland and Northland
- Improve the connectivity between the medium to long term growth areas in the northern Rodney area
- Improve the reliability of the transport network through a more robust and safer road between Auckland and Northland.

For the past few months, we've been developing key principles for the Puhoi to Wellsford project that will be used to design the new highway.

Our key principles are:

1. When completed, the new highway will be "offline" from the existing SH1, i.e. it will be entirely separate from the existing SH1.
2. There will be access points at Warkworth and Wellsford.
3. The new highway will pass Warkworth to the west and pass Wellsford to the east.

These principles will ensure that the new highway improves the connection between Auckland and Northland, and links to the growth centres in northern Rodney.

Unlike other roads of national significance, the Puhoi to Wellsford project is at a very early stage in the planning process.

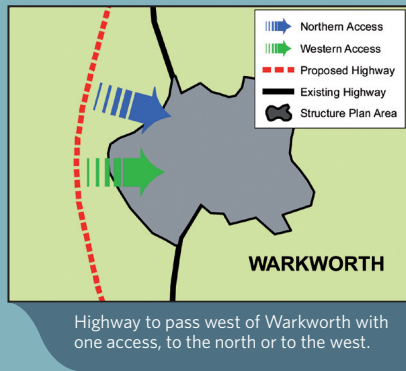
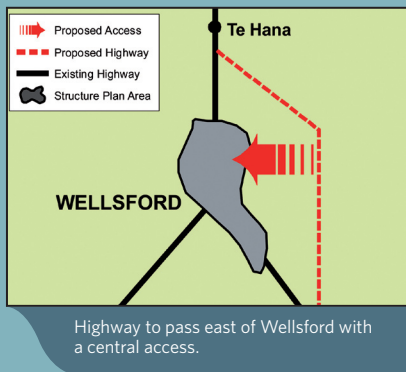
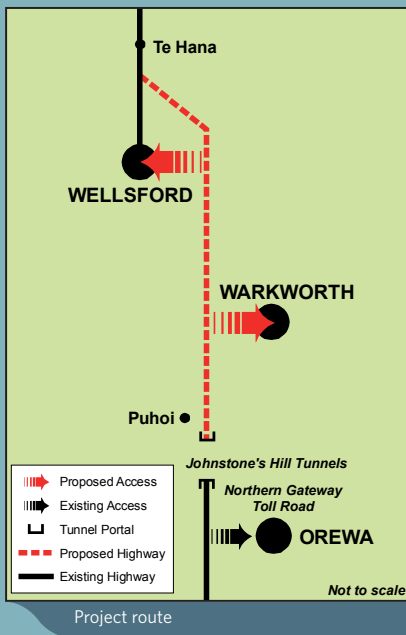
While the project team already has a lot of background information about the area, we need your help to find out more so that route planning is properly informed.



For more information

For further information online visit:
www.nzta.govt.nz/puhoi-wellsford

The new highway



We want your feedback on these proposed access points for the new highway. Please use the attached feedback form or visit the website to use the online form at www.nzta.govt.nz/puhoi-wellsford

What we think . . .

When completed the new highway will be completely separate from the current SH1. The existing highway will remain, serving as an alternative route. Construction of the new route may be staged. Which sections will be first and when has yet to be decided.

Why build an entirely new highway rather than upgrade the existing?

Building along a new route will make it possible to have smoother curves, and easier grades than could be achieved by upgrading the existing SH1. It will be easier to build a new highway and construction will cause less disruption for users and adjoining properties than trying to upgrade SH1. It will also result in a safer, more efficient state highway. Current access to properties on the existing SH1 will remain.

Getting on and off the highway

To determine where the best places are to access the highway, we've been working with the councils to understand their future planning, land use (including local structure plans) and predicted traffic growth in northern Rodney. When considering this information, the NZTA has identified that only Warkworth and Wellsford justify having access points to the proposed highway.

Areas such as Puhoi, Mahurangi West, Moirs Hill, Cowan Bay and Wayby will continue to be served by the existing SH1, which will carry less traffic once the new highway is built.

Looking at Warkworth

The most practical route for the new highway is to pass to the west of Warkworth. A route to the east would cross the Mahurangi Estuary and would be longer.

No decision has been made on where the Warkworth access point should be on the highway. The options are on the outskirts of town either to the north or west. A southern access is not suitable as it would require traffic to Warkworth and eastern beaches to continue along the existing SH1. We seek your views on



the two potential access locations and matters you think should be taken into account in choosing between them.

And Wellsford

The best solution for Wellsford is for the highway to pass to the east of the town with a central access point. This will allow a better connection to Mangawhai, surrounding areas, and to industrial and commercial land.

What do you think?

Please use the attached feedback form. You can send it back to us free by using the following address:

FreePost Authority Number 66927,
Puhoi to Wellsford road of national significance,
PO Box 9806,
Newmarket,
Auckland 1149.

Or visit the website to use the online form at www.nzta.govt.nz/puhoi-wellsford



We need you!



The Puhoi to Wellsford highway project will address congestion issues which are a common complaint of the current SH1.

There's no substitute for local knowledge when planning a project of this scale.

While the technical members of the project team have extensive experience in designing and building new highways, we're keen to hear about the views and experience of the people who live in the area. We need your help to understand the environment and the community.

Things we want to know about include:

- historical sites you value
- issues about noise, air quality, etc.

- natural areas important to you
- cultural and community sites
- landslips and unstable land
- anything else you consider important.

There are a number of ways you can contact the team to tell us about what you think is important, including phone, email, visiting our website and using our freepost feedback form. (See the next page for details.)

Write down what you think, then detach the page along the perforation and return to the listed freepost address.

Access to private land

The project team's technical specialists need to understand the challenges of the countryside, to help us with our planning of the project. This means team members who need to understand more about the important plants, trees, soil, rocks and water courses will need to go on to land in northern Rodney.

The team will be contacting some residents to seek permission to go onto their land to learn more about the area. This doesn't mean the new highway will run through these properties. Where it will go is still undecided and will depend on many factors, including your input during this consultation period.

If someone calls to ask for permission to visit your land, please ask any questions you need as we're only too happy to discuss the process.

We will seek permission to enter any private property and there will be plenty of warning before we need to visit your land. Our personnel will carry identification so don't be afraid to ask to see it. If you've any concerns, please contact the free call number 0800 P2WNZTA (0800 729698).

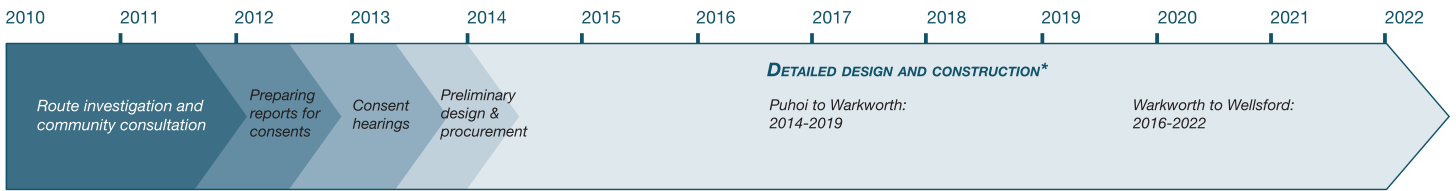
Left to right: Chris Perks, Jerry Giango, Brett Gliddon, Amanda Cosgrove, Gillaine Whittle, Paul Glucina



Who are we?

This project is really important to the Government and the NZTA to help develop Northland and Auckland. The NZTA has set up a project team, together with engineering consultants SKM, to deliver this road of national significance.

Chris Perks, Senior Project Manager, is responsible for the engineering of the highway. **Jerry Giango**, Project Controls Manager, ensures the project is delivered on time and to budget. **Brett Gliddon**, Principal Project Manager, has overall responsibility for delivering the project. **Amanda Cosgrove**, Communications & Stakeholder Manager, keeps the public informed. **Gillaine Whittle**, Project Administrator, coordinates everyone. **Paul Glucina**, Senior Transport Planner, oversees the strategic transport decisions of the project.



* NZTA will seek to accelerate the programme wherever possible.

Frequently asked questions

Why is Puhoi to Wellsford a road of national significance project?

The Puhoi to Wellsford route has a strategic role connecting the Auckland and Northland regions and seeks to promote future regional economic growth as well as improving the safety of the route and making journey times more reliable.

Infrastructure development is one of the Government's key planks for economic growth. This means the Government is investing in infrastructure now to encourage future economic growth rather than wait until the strain on the network becomes a brake on progress.

What stage is the project at now?

The project is divided into the six stages shown in the diagram above. The project is now in the route investigation and community consultation stage. From now till early 2011 the NZTA will undertake a detailed study of the route. This study will consider the full range of issues associated with building the road from both technical and community viewpoints.

How does the new road affect the current work at Warkworth?

The current works in Warkworth are being undertaken to ease immediate congestion along the State Highway and to help facilitate the future growth outlined in the Rodney District Council's Warkworth Adopted Structure Plan which will result in an increase in east to west travel movements. Improvements to the State Highway corridor which include increasing capacity at key locations, the implementation of traffic signals and new walking and cycling facilities will help better manage traffic along the route which are immediate concerns.

The Puhoi to Wellsford project does take the current works into consideration but this project has long term inter-regional objectives which will take some time to implement. The NZTA's priority is that both the current works and future route planning are conducive to each other.

When will there be consultation on a preferred route?

Once we have assessed all the feedback from the consultation the next step will be to define a suitable route for the new highway. The project team will consult about the new route as soon as possible to meet the deadlines as indicated above.

Will you be building the highway in sections?

The investigation phase of the project will determine how the new highway is going to be built. Opportunities for building the highway in sections rather than one complete new road will be explored. As the whole project is a new highway any sections will need to connect back to the existing road in the short term.

Will the Puhoi to Wellsford highway be tolled?

Part of our ongoing investigations will be to consider tolls as a source of funding towards the construction of the highway. If these investigations find that tolling can provide a viable source of funding, this may enable the NZTA to build the road sooner than just using public funding alone. We'll keep everyone informed as this study progresses.

When will the construction start?

Detailed design and construction is the final phase of the project where you will see work out on the road.

Detailed engineering plans are drawn up and contractors are able to start work. Detailed design and construction is proposed to start before 2014. It may be possible to stage this work so sections can be opened at different times - these opportunities will be examined during the investigation phase.

Who can I contact about the project?

Please see below project website and project team contact details.



For more information

For further information online visit: www.nzta.govt.nz/puhoi-wellsford

Our contact details

For general enquiries, or contact information about the NZ Transport Agency please check our website www.nzta.govt.nz or email us at info@nzta.govt.nz

Contact email: puhoi-wellsford@nzta.govt.nz
 Phone: 0800 P2WNZTA (0800 729698)
www.nzta.govt.nz/puhoi-wellsford

Communication & Stakeholder Liaison Manager: Amanda Cosgrove
 Principal Project Manager: Brett Gliddon



