

SH1 LOOP ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Construction has now started on the SH1 Loop Road Safety Improvements project. Safety improvements to the SH1/SH15 Loop Road intersection and the SH1/Portland Road intersection will ensure communities, visitors and freight travel safely across the state highway network south of Whāngarei.

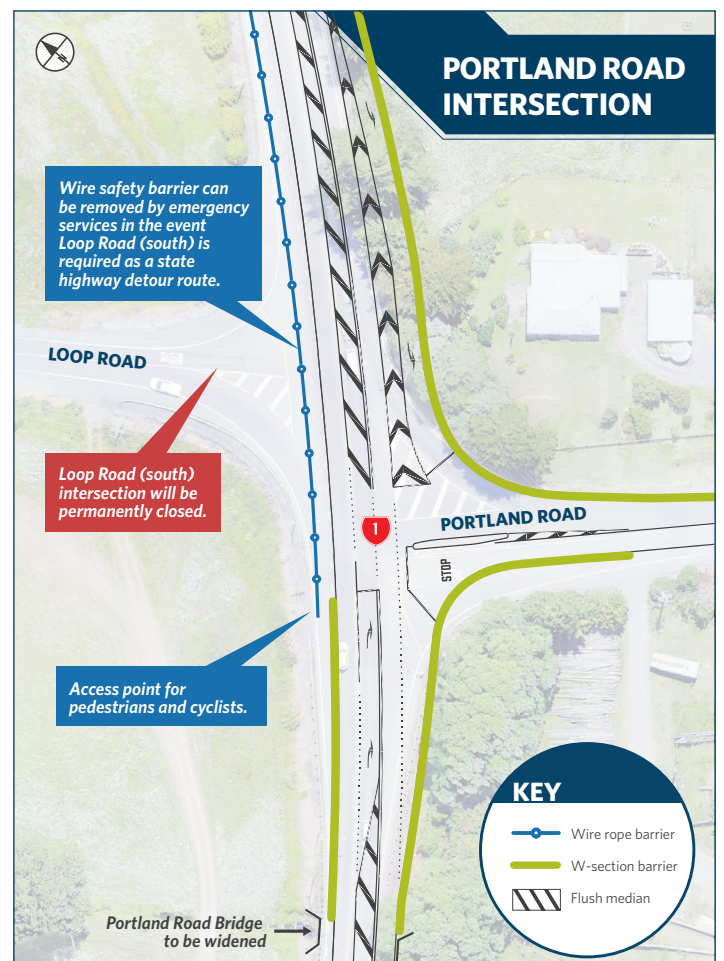
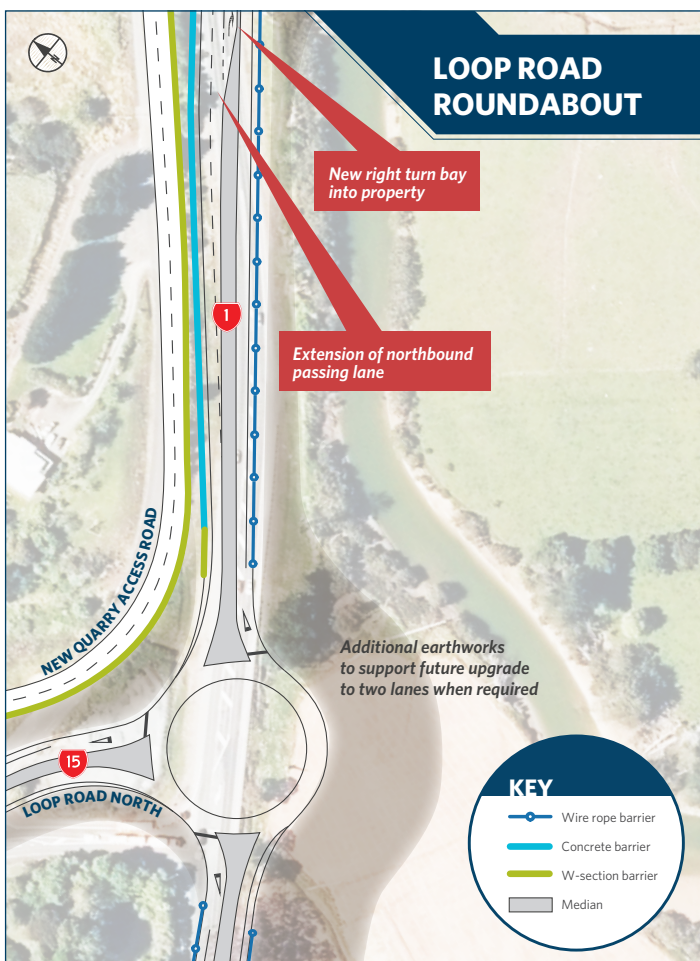
KEY FEATURES OF THE PROJECT

A single lane roundabout is being constructed at the intersection of SH15 Loop Road (North) and SH1. Construction of the roundabout will include additional earthworks to ensure the intersection is future proofed for a dual lane roundabout to be constructed when required. The project will also provide an improved Portland Road intersection with road widening to support safe right turns and a left turn slip lane into Portland Road.

The intersection of Otaika Valley Road (SH15) and Loop Road (South) will also be improved to give intersection priority to SH15 users. Towards the end of construction, the intersection of Loop Road (South) and SH1 will be closed to vehicles. A flexible wire barrier will be installed across the SH1/Loop Road (South) intersection with access provided for pedestrians and cyclists only. The barrier design allows for removal in the event the intersection needs to be reopened as a state highway detour route under emergency traffic management. The project includes improved stormwater management including a widened culvert south of Portland Road and a new culvert and sediment retention ponds north of the roundabout.

BENEFITS

- The roundabout will significantly improve safety and freight efficiency on SH1, particularly for vehicles exiting Loop Road (North)
- Improvements to Portland Road intersection will improve safety by providing greater sight visibility and improved separation from state highway traffic for turning movements in and out of Portland Road.
- The closure of Loop Road (South) aims to improve safety on the state highway by removing conflicting turning movements with the SH1/Portland Road intersection
- The closure of Loop Road (South) also improves safety for the Otaika Valley School community by significantly reducing vehicle numbers, including heavy vehicles, past the school
- Safety improvements to the SH1/SH15 Loop Road intersection and the SH1/Portland Road intersection will ensure communities, visitors and freight travel safely across the state highway network south of Whāngarei
- Improved stormwater management and riparian planting will enhance the environment and prevent untreated stormwater entering the Otaika Stream.



Construction of the SH1 Loop Road Safety Improvements project started in March 2019 and will take approximately 24 months to complete, weather permitting.



Construction milestones 2019

Site establishment and vegetation clearance

Relocation of utility services – Loop Road (North)

Construction of new access road to the quarry

Preloading of earth for roundabout and bridge widening at Portland Road

Installation of stormwater culverts

Construction of roundabout

Permanent road stopping at SH1/Loop Road (South) intersection

Intersection improvements at Otaika Valley Road/Loop Road (South)

Landscaping, road marking and signage

Installation of road side barriers – W-section, flexible wire-rope, concrete

Opening of the new roundabout to traffic

Widening of bridge south of Portland Road

Relocation of utility services – Portland Road

Construction milestones 2020

SAFETY DURING CONSTRUCTION

Keeping our workers, road users and community safe is our top priority. Steel barriers have been installed along the roadside to provide a safe area for our team to work. The barriers have reduced the shoulder width through this section of highway so we encourage pedestrians and cyclists to use Loop Road rather than SH1 during construction, or get in touch with the project team so we can discuss safer journeys for you.

We have also reduced the speed limit on SH1 to 80km/h between Toetoe Road and Maungakaramea Road for the duration of the works. This ensures a safer transition for road users to reduce their speed to 50km/h through the construction zone between Loop Road (North) and Portland Road.



CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Fulton Hogan Stakeholder Manager Melanie Norris on 0800 577 623 or email us at Northlandproject@nzta.govt.nz

More information can be found at www.nzta.govt.nz/loop-road. You can also sign up on the website to receive regular project updates.