



LOOP ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT



SH1 road widening under construction, looking south from the passing lane.

As the end of 2019 draws near, the Loop Road project team are making the most of the dry weather and longer daylight hours before works stop for two weeks over Christmas.

Since the project began in March, we have moved 38,000m³ of earth, installed 1000 metres of new drainage, driven 550 concrete piles into the ground and have worked 35,000 hours on site.

ROAD WIDENING NORTH OF LOOP ROAD

For the last six months we have been working to widen the highway north of Loop Road. Once completed, the northbound passing lane will be extended to tie in with the new roundabout. As well as the widened road, the reshaped embankment will deliver greater visibility for road users and improve safety for people accessing properties north of Loop Road.

How we widen the road

After clearing the site of trees and buildings we start by excavating material to the required depth, then replacing with compacted roading metal, to allow construction of the road.

Before roading metal is added, cloth is placed on the base as a silt and water barrier. Reinforcing material is placed in between layers of metal, creating a strengthened raft layer. The metal is compacted using a smooth drum roller weighing 12-14 tonne, then the final pavement is laid.

Pavement thickness varies throughout the Loop Road project. Most of the new road alignment will be chipseal. The new roundabout and approximately 140m lead in to the roundabout in each direction will be asphalt. Asphalt is harder wearing than chipseal and is typically reserved for high traffic locations, such as the Loop Road (SH15) intersection.

PORTLAND ROAD INTERSECTION

With construction of the new roundabout underway, the project team is starting the intersection improvements to Portland Road.

Portland Road currently has poor visibility, limited space for turning vehicles and a high crash history. Improvements to the intersection include a left-turn 'slip lane' for southbound SH1 vehicles, a right-turn bay on SH1 for northbound vehicles and a new bridge immediately south of Portland Road. This will create a safer, wider intersection with improved visibility for turning vehicles.

Work commenced in November with relocation of native lizards prior to tree felling works and site clearance on the corner of Portland Road scheduled for December and January.

Earthworks will get underway in January to construct the left-turn 'slip lane' on SH1.



Works ramping up at the Portland Road intersection.

Bridge widening at the Portland Road intersection

We have completed the bridge piles and are now working to form the sides and top of the widened bridge. Intersection widening will get underway in the new year which will require temporary traffic switches to carry out this work on the state highway.

Access to Loop Road (south) will be closed off in the new year to accommodate the temporary road layouts and there will be periods of traffic management required while the widening works are taking place.

Widening works will be done behind temporary steel barriers to keep our workers safe and keep the traffic moving efficiently. Manual traffic control will also be required on Portland Road to allow our earthmoving equipment to cross the road safely.

OTAIKA VALLEY SCHOOL SITE VISIT

Otaika Valley School welcomed the project team to their assembly in November, followed by a site visit for a group of students. The children enjoyed taking a closer look at the roundabout site works from the Wilson Training Centre, with Project Manager David Gilmour providing answers to what we're building and why. The most popular part of the trip was getting to try the earthwork machinery simulators at the training centre and we thank Wilson Training Centre for hosting our site visit.



Project Manager David explaining how the roundabout is being constructed.



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

Keep up with progress and sign up to receive regular project updates at www.nzta.govt.nz/loop-road