



Kensington to Manse

section of Whāngārei Urban Improvements Project

PROJECT UPDATE

MARCH 2017

Work to improve journey reliability, road safety and freight efficiency on Whāngārei's key transport route is ploughing ahead.



The Kensington to Manse section of the State Highway 1 Whāngārei Urban Improvements are expected to be finished by the end of April. It's one of six projects worth \$49 million to manage growing traffic numbers in and around Whāngārei.

The improvements on this section build on the work already completed on the Kamo Bypass, Percy Street to Kensington Avenue safety improvements, Selwyn to Fourth four-laning and the SH1/SH14 intersection improvements. The final stage will include widening the state highway to four lanes near Tarewa Road. This work has just been granted resource consent.

SAFETY

The improvements on the Kensington section are designed to improve safety for road users and reduce traffic queuing at the intersection at peak times as well as for road users and pedestrians accessing Kensington Park. A median barrier has been installed on the state highway around the curve at Manse Street where a number of crashes have occurred caused by vehicles crossing the centre line. The intersection at Manse Street has also been redesigned and now has a new roundabout to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists as well as vehicles.

New pedestrian refuge islands on the state highway and Kensington Avenue have been built to provide safer crossing points for pedestrians crossing the state highway at the intersection.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECT

- » 200 metres of central median barriers have been installed, along with 20 metres of steel central barrier over the Waiaroha Stream Bridge.
- » A number of large native trees have been relocated within Kensington Park to make room for the new roundabout and parking facility at the stadium.
- » Some locations between the large retaining walls and the footpath will be landscaped to allow climbers to grow on the stone blocks.
- » The central splitter islands will have exposed concrete surfaces using Waipa river stone.



Ceremonial tree planting at Kensington Avenue March 2017.
Left to right - Sheryl Mai, Whāngārei District Council Mayor; John Bain, Northland Regional Council Councillor; Hon Simon Bridges, Minister of Transport.



LOWER STANLEY STREET ACCESS

The Lower Stanley Street access onto the state highway has been shifted further north to allow safer movements to and from the state highway. To achieve this, a 50 metre long and 7 metre high concrete block wall has been constructed. Large trees have been retained to help soften the visual impact of the wall for local residents on Lower Stanley Street. A new concrete footpath has been built connecting Powhiri Avenue to Kensington Avenue.

ADDING THE FINAL TOUCHES

The project has 600 metres of structural retaining walls ranging 1 metre to 7 metres high. Some of the structural walls are made of large masonry blocks up to 2 metres in depth.

There may be some traffic delays as the project nears completion. Motorists are asked to plan ahead, allow extra time for your journey and watch your speed to ensure the safety of work crews and other road users.

The Transport Agency is looking forward to completing these improvements to give the Whāngārei community and those driving through the city, safer and easier access.



PROJECT CONTACTS

For further information on the Kensington to Manse project, please visit www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh1-whangarei-improvements. You can also contact the project team on northlandproject@nzta.govt.nz or call 0800 44 44 49.