



Waihi to Omokoroa

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

How we're
making your
road safer



The NZ Transport Agency is investing \$101million to make State Highway 2 (SH2) between Waihi and Omokoroa safer. Between 2009 and 2018, 25 people lost their lives and 66 were seriously injured on this stretch of road.

Most of the deaths that occurred along this highway between 2009 and 2018 were caused by people running off the road and hitting trees, poles or deep ditches, head-on collisions and crashes at intersections. To make this stretch of road safer we are:

- widening the road
- putting in a wide centreline to help separate oncoming traffic
- widening the road shoulders to give drivers more room
- putting in roadside safety barriers where there are power poles, trees and deep ditches
- making intersections safer.

These improvements will save lives and will raise the safety rating of the state highway. Some of these changes, like putting in a wide centreline, will also mean this road can be improved even more in the future – a median barrier could potentially be added, for example.



Typical wide centreline and side barriers with potential for median barrier



Construction

Around 40km of state highway, between Waihi and Omokoroa, is being made safer. We've split the project into 10 sections to help limit the number of roadworks that people encounter along the highway.



Work on the Heath Road to Trig Road section.

What's it going to look like?

Work on the first section – between Heath Road and Trig Road, south of Waihi – started in September 2018. This section had the highest crash risk and was the easiest and quickest to get underway because no land or resource consents were needed to do the work. The improvements along this section, which are nearing completion, include a new right turn bay on SH2 so it's safer to turn into Waimata School and safety upgrades to Heath, Baxter, Crean, Ford and Trig Roads.



Associate Transport Minister Julie Anne Genter visits Waimata School to see first-hand the benefits of the safety improvements. Principal Logan Phillips and his students tell her what the improvements mean for them and their families.

What's happening now?

For the remaining nine sections, the plan is to have two main activity construction sites underway at one time, one north of Katikati and one south of Katikati. You'll start seeing activity between Trig Road and Athenree Gorge, and between Wharawhara and Sharp Roads, over the next 12-18 months as the contractor focuses on these two areas.

Initially it will be locating services and removing vegetation. Construction activity will ramp up later in the year when the earthworks season starts, around November 2019.

How long will it take?

Each section will take between 12-18 months to complete. The project is expected to be finished in 2023.

Blessing of the Katikati to Omokoroa section in preparation for work starting in August by Ngāi Tamawhariua, Te Whanau a Tauwaho, Ngāti Te Wai and Pirirakau hapu, supported by Ngāi Te Rangi and Ngāti Ranginui iwi representatives.



Moving in to Philip Walter Drive

The construction site office was set up in July. Establishing the office in Katikati means the team has a central location, and with good access to the construction sites.

The project managers, team leaders and customer team will be based at the Phillip Walter Drive site office.



New base for the HEB Construction team.


Keeping traffic moving

We'll do our best to minimise travel delays and disruption for people using and living along the state highway. At times, there will be temporary speed limits and warning signs in place.

The focus will be on ensuring two lanes are open for traffic, unless it is not practicable or safe. You may experience some minor delays because of the work, and we appreciate your patience.

Plan your trip

Plan your trip with travel time information, traffic cameras, and updates on delays, roadworks and road closures.

 www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz

Keeping you up to date

For more information about the SH2 Waihi to Omokoroa safety improvements phone

 0800 080 297

To see our updates, project information, and to sign up to our regular newsletters go to

 www.nzta.govt.nz/w2o

For more information about the SH2 Waihi to Tauranga corridor, visit

 www.nzta.govt.nz/waihi2tga

What to expect during construction

First, services (water, power) will be located and moved if required, and trees and vegetation cleared. In some locations, fences inside the road boundary will be relocated, and we've been working with the relevant landowners over these arrangements. Where the road is being widened, we'll remove the topsoil beside the road and bring in extra material. Some large drains will be installed, and chip seal will be laid. Once this is completed, safety barriers will be put in, followed by line marking and the wide centreline. In some cases, where widening isn't required on the side of the road, safety barriers may be installed earlier in the process.

We will work with our contractors to keep things as seamless as possible by maintaining property access and ensuring residents, road users and businesses know in advance when work is happening.

