

SH2 Masterton to Carterton safety improvements

Feedback summary

Last year we asked you if there was anything else we should consider before we start constructing new roundabouts, median barriers and other safety improvements on State Highway 2 (SH2) between Masterton and Carterton. We also asked what you thought about proposed new speed limits on SH2 between Masterton and Featherston.

We've now confirmed the design, and will be starting construction on the project soon. The project includes three new roundabouts, and side and median barriers along SH2 between the two towns.

10,895 views on our project webpage



4,492 total views on our interactive project map

403 comments on social pinpoint



1,308 pieces of feedback received



442 online survey responses

516 subscribers to our e-newsletter

352 emails

111 hard copy feedback forms

We heard from:



- Mana whenua
- Residents and landowners
- Local councils
- Members of Parliament
- Local businesses and organisations
- Those who work in the area
- People who travel on the highway

Timeline

We've had great conversations about how to make this road safer over the past few years.

The project was launched in 2018 with initial community engagement and workshops, with subsequent opportunities for public involvement as we short-listed proposals in 2019, and in 2020 as concept designs were developed and refined. This all led up to the engagement we held in 2021 on the final designs.

Your input has been an important part of us making the right designs for this busy part of SH2. We'd like to thank everyone who took the time to get involved and help shape our plans.

Construction will begin in the coming weeks and will be staged over a two-year period. We've appointed Higgins Contractors to deliver the work with us.

We'll keep you informed as construction progresses and let you know about any changes to travel during the work.



You can find out more about previous engagement below:



<https://bit.ly/M2C-feedback-summary-2018>
<https://bit.ly/M2F-speed-review-feedback-summary-2020>

WE ASKED

“What are your thoughts about our median barrier and roundabout design? Is there anything else we need to know?”

WHAT WE HEARD

There was a lot of support for the proposed infrastructure improvements, especially the three new roundabouts. There was a mixed response to median barriers, with some people supportive, as they stop head-on crashes, while others raised concerns about passing opportunities and travel times. We received a number of suggestions for improvements that are outside of this project scope and the funding we have available at this time. These included a heavy vehicle expressway bypassing towns, pedestrian underpasses and/or off-road cycle facilities. We also received a lot of feedback about the level of road maintenance, the width and condition of the highway, and driver education, which we will pass on to relevant teams.



“This [Ngaumutawa Road roundabout] couldn’t be any more needed. If we could have it by yesterday that would be great.”



“Long term the intersection needs a roundabout to address safety concerns. However banning right-turns is a sensible quick fix as there is an effective alternative that doesn’t add much to journey times.”



“Strongly support the wide painted centreline!”

“100% support the decision to remove the passing lane. [...] We have seen far too many accidents on our corner which could be avoided.”



“You don’t need roundabouts. Close the entrances to SH2 at Wilton Road and East Taratahi Road and bring traffic onto Norfolk Road and Cornwell Road.”



“Don’t support removing passing lane, this will lead to frustrated drivers.”

ADDRESSING KEY CONCERNS

The roundabouts should be larger and have two lanes.

This project's focus is to reduce death and serious injury crashes quickly through low-cost, targeted changes. We made the decision to make design improvements within the existing road corridor as much as possible, to give ourselves the best chance of gaining construction funding. Purchasing property significantly increases the cost of projects and timeframes. We're focused on reducing deaths and serious injuries caused by crashes on this road and we believe these designs strike the right balance. The designs we have come up with allow for further improvements in the future, should additional funding become available.

Removing passing lanes will increase driver frustration, leading to dangerous overtaking. More passing lanes or slow vehicle bays should be added.

We will retain the northbound passing lanes between Hughes Line and the East Taratahi/Wiltons Road intersection, and our design allows plenty of opportunities for slower-moving vehicles (like tractors or other farm vehicles) to pull over and let others pass. There is not sufficient distance between the two new roundabouts at (Norfolk Road and Wiltons/East Taratahi Roads) to safely retain the passing lane there.

How about an expressway from Masterton to Remutaka Hill to completely bypass all four towns?

The changes we're making are designed to help prevent people being killed or seriously injured in crashes. They are relatively simple improvements which will help ensure simple mistakes don't cost lives. These safety improvements won't prevent other projects being considered in the future.

Won't we get stuck behind slow-moving vehicles if you install median barriers?

We will only install side barriers at a few high-risk locations, such as in front of culverts or ditches – so even with the barriers down the middle of the road there will still be room along the widened shoulder for slow-moving vehicles to pull over and let others pass.

Next steps

We'd like to thank everyone who made the time to share their ideas on our designs.

We have reviewed the feedback, and we have now finalised the designs.

On our website, you can view plans for the roundabouts, and a map indicating the locations of all of the safety improvements.

We are now preparing to begin construction of this project. We'll share details of the work once they are confirmed.

What about speed limits between Masterton and Featherston?

Our safety team is considering the feedback we received about the proposed new speed limits. We will share a consultation report and the submissions when we announce our decision later this year. We'd like to thank everyone who made the time to put in a submission.



For more information visit the project webpage or email the team:



nzta.govt.nz/m2c



SH2Wairarapa@nzta.govt.nz