

# Southern Links project update

June 2017



Hamilton City with Collins Road in the foreground

## Southern Links progress - designation confirmed

Southern Links is a joint project between the NZ Transport Agency and the Hamilton City Council to develop a network of state highways and urban arterial roads to support planned residential growth in the southern part of the city.

The intended route of Southern Links (known as the designation) was confirmed in 2016. The designation protects the route and provides certainty for current and future landowners prior to construction. The designation conditions provide the Transport Agency and the Council 20 years to get the project underway.

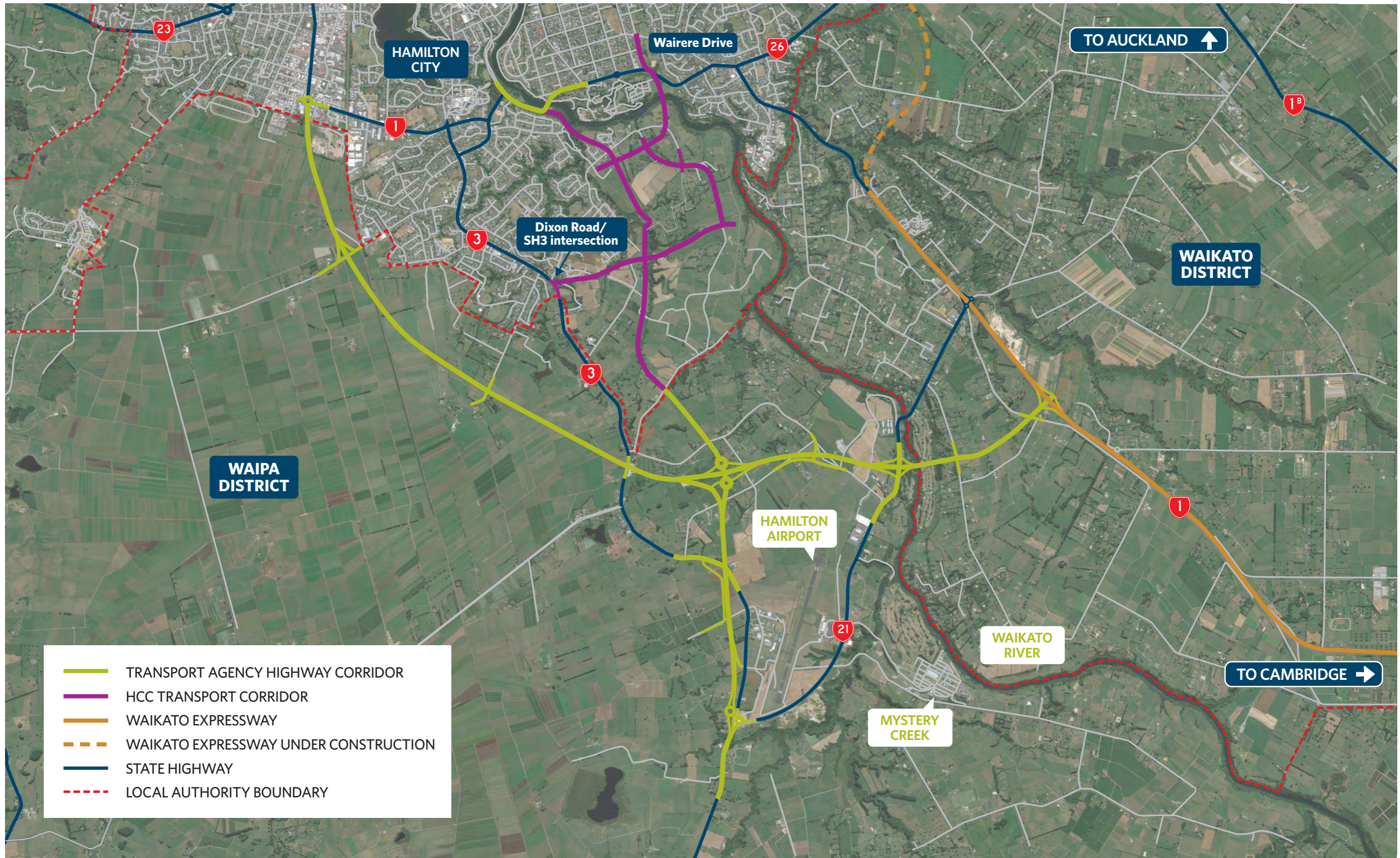
The Transport Agency and the Council are working together to ensure that the future state highway routes will be well integrated with local roads, and planned residential and industrial developments. When constructed Southern Links will reduce congestion, improve safety on SH1 and SH3 in the Hillcrest and Melville suburbs of Hamilton, improve freight flows and be a key part of the city's urban arterial network integrated into the HCC Access Hamilton Strategy.

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It is important to note that the project is still in its early stages. Other than the Dixon Road / Ohaupo Road intersection there is no funding currently allocated for construction by the Transport Agency or Council. The Council will be considering the timing and funding of infrastructure such as Southern Links as part of the 2018 review of the 10 Year Plan.

The Council has made a non-binding application to the Government's \$1billion Housing Infrastructure Fund. If successful, and subject to agreeing acceptable terms, this could see earlier funding for construction of parts of Council's Southern Links network. A decision from the Government is expected in the second half of this year.

The Transport Agency and the Council are committed to keeping the community informed of progress with Southern Links while it is the pre-construction phase. We will do this through Project Updates, information on our website and through Community Liaison Groups which have been set up to cover the different areas of Southern Links.



- TRANSPORT AGENCY HIGHWAY CORRIDOR
- HCC TRANSPORT CORRIDOR
- WAIKATO EXPRESSWAY
- - - WAIKATO EXPRESSWAY UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- STATE HIGHWAY
- - - LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARY

# Environmental survey work under way

Preliminary work has begun by a team of ecologists and environmental scientists to survey the gully and stream networks in the Hamilton City Council's Peacocke area and out into Waipa district part of Southern Links.

They have been looking at vegetation and habitat types, conducting in-stream aquatic surveys, and collecting further data on long-tail bats using both acoustic bat monitoring devices and thermal imaging cameras.

The team is now focusing on analysing and assessing the data they have gathered. They'll be out again next season to do more bat monitoring work.



Bat monitoring near Cobham Drive

## Did you know?

All of the background information about Southern Links including detailed maps, consent conditions and other documents are available online.

[www.hamilton.govt.nz/southernlinks](http://www.hamilton.govt.nz/southernlinks) or [www.nzta.govt.nz/southernlinks](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/southernlinks)



To sign up for these newsletters online go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/southernlinks](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/southernlinks)



Thermal imaging camera

## Any questions?

For more information about Southern Links contact the communications manager for the relevant local authority area:

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