



Significant progress has been made over the past 18 months, with major decisions made on the planned network route.

Four independent hearing commissioners recommended the route designations be confirmed with a 20-year lapse period. This means that the designations will expire in 20 years' time unless significant progress or effort has been made towards giving effect to them. Getting the designations in place protects the network so that it can be built when required in the future.

The commissioners also decided on a range of conditions which must be complied with. Several conditions require on-going environmental surveys to be carried out.

The designations that comprise the network will not be finally confirmed until three appeals to parts of the decision have been resolved. The appeals are all specific to individual properties and do not have the potential to result in any network route changes.

Timing for construction depends on funding availability and priorities. Neither the Transport Agency nor Hamilton City Council has funding set aside for construction of the overall Southern Links network in their

respective 10-year plans. However, Hamilton City Council's 10-Year Plan has allocated funds for:

- Completing designation conditions which are required in advance of any construction getting under way (the Transport Agency also has funds allocated for this purpose); and
- Improvements at the Dixon Road / Ohaupo Road (SH3) intersection, which will enable continued development for Stage 1 of the Peacocke Structure Plan area.

The Hamilton City Council's 30-year Infrastructure Plan has earmarked construction for the new bridge across the Waikato River adjacent to Hamilton East cemetery for 2028/29.



Find out more

www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/southern-links

There are detailed map routes, background documents and a digital flyover showing how the project might look

Overleaf: Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently asked questions

What is the Southern Links project?

Southern Links is a joint NZ Transport Agency and Hamilton City Council initiative. It involves the construction of 21km of state highway, three new bridges and 11km of urban arterial roads inside Hamilton's Peacocke growth area.

The Southern Links project allows for a future connection to but is not part of the Waikato Expressway project.

What is the aim of the project?

The long-term aim of the project is to develop a network of well-connected state highway and urban routes linking:

- SH1 from Kahikatea Drive in Hamilton to the Waikato Expressway at Tamahere in the southeast
- SH3 from Hamilton Airport to central and east Hamilton.

What are the expected benefits of the project?

The benefits will include better linkage and access across and in and out of Hamilton city and surrounding districts for all motorists. This means more efficient movement of people and freight. This will result in economic growth, reduced travel times, improved road safety and reduced congestion. Southern Links will also complement the Waikato Expressway by providing the main southern access linking Hamilton and the Expressway. It will also provide the necessary arterial roading infrastructure to enable the development of stage 2 of the Peacocke Structure Plan area.

What are the expected costs for this project?

It's estimated the project will cost around \$500m, based on 2013 costs. This will change as details become more specific.

Once the designations are confirmed, what does that mean for directly affected property owners?

Once the appeals have been resolved and the designations confirmed, both the Transport Agency and Hamilton City Council will:

- Appoint a Communication, Consultation and Property Liaison Manager as first point of contact for Southern Links project questions.
- Prepare a property acquisition and management engagement practice note to provide clarity for directly affected landowners on who they can talk to with regards to matters regarding property acquisition and management.
- Prepare and implement a pre-construction communication and consultation plan which includes community liaison group meetings.

Did you use feedback from the community in defining the preferred network?

Yes, we held a number of public information days, and have communicated and consulted with interested parties. That consultation has helped shape the final preferred network.

Will the project affect the golf course at the Narrows?

Yes. The network cuts through the golf course. The Riverside Golf Club has been consulted throughout the process and the Transport Agency is continuing to work with the club to develop a range of future options for the course.

Have environmental and cultural issues been taken into account?

Yes, the project team took full account of various environmental and cultural issues in developing the route. A Tangata Whenua Working Group was involved from an early stage and both Hamilton City Council and the Transport Agency are currently involved in a bat research project with the Department of Conservation. The hearings commissioners comprehensively addressed environmental and cultural matters at the hearing and in their decision-making.



WHO DO I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

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Southern Links is not part of the Waikato Expressway project.

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