



Rebuilding work on the lanes south of Kainui Road bridge start later this month

SH1 repair work going well

Repairs on the Waikato Expressway north of Hamilton will shift to the Ngaruawahia section in late April and throughout May.

Works are wrapping up on the Te Rapa section and now move north to the adjoining Ngaruawahia section to improve the surface for winter.

There is rutting on the road surface on both sections, and the Transport Agency is taking several approaches to resolve this.

While working with contractors on long-term solutions, temporary repairs are being done.

Te Rapa has needed water-proofing and resealing and similar work is under way at Ngaruawahia. The next stage, from approximate 29 April, is to rebuild about 1.6km of the south-bound lanes, south of Kainui Road bridge. This will take around six weeks and during that time all traffic will be down to a single lane each way, using the north-bound lanes. A speed restriction will apply.

If any detour is needed it will be via the former State Highway route through Ngaruawahia. See map on page 2.

The \$172 million Te Rapa section is 7.6km long and was constructed by an Alliance made up of Fulton Hogan, Opus Consultants and the Transport Agency. It opened in December 2012. The \$160 million Ngaruawahia section was built by Fletcher Construction under a design and construct contract. It opened in December 2013.

On both expressway sections, surface deterioration has allowed moisture to penetrate and accelerate the damage to the road surface.

Meters help investigations

About 400 moisture meters are being installed along the two sections of expressway as part of the short-term repairs.

These can be remotely monitored and will help investigations into what has caused rutting issues on both the Te Rapa and Ngaruawahia sections and help determine the long-term fix.

Te Rapa section works started in February and will wrap up in late April. The waterproofing layer of seal has been applied, the depressions filled in, sensors installed, and a final seal is about to be applied. Most of this work has been done with little disruption to traffic, although there have been two night-time detours. The final seal will also require a one-night south-bound detour and another north-bound, likely to be 14-16 April, weather dependent.

These detours involve using the old SH1 route past the dairy factory and The Base, are clearly signposted and add only a few minutes extra to travel time.

“It is our top priority to keep the state highway safe for road users and we are committed to fixing the road with a long-term solution as soon as we can,” says NZ Transport Agency Waikato Portfolio Manager Darry Coalter.

“We’d like to thank residents and road users for their understanding and patience while we complete these works on the highway,” says Mr Coalter.



Sealing work at Te Rapa started in February and is nearly finished.

Staged approach to fixing road

We plan to fix these two sections in stages

Stage 1: Apply additional waterproofing to the surfacing this autumn to provide better reliability through winter and allow a more focused approach to undertaking long-term repairs where necessary. This will also help confirm the failure mechanism for the road surface and ensure any long-term fix is appropriate and best value for money.

Stage 2: Undertake additional and more invasive repairs at specific locations to achieve better long-term durability from the pavement. These repairs would be significant in scale and disruption and will be planned to minimise impacts to customers.

How will works affect road users?

We expect this autumn's works will cause minimal delays to SH1 traffic. Much of the work can be done with closing a lane and reducing speeds through the work site. Some stop-go traffic management may be required, and on the odd occasion a detour will be in place utilising the old state highway routes. These will be clearly signposted and used only when necessary, and probably at night. See detour routes in the map on this page.

People can keep up with progress and the latest traffic management on the channels listed in the information panel below.

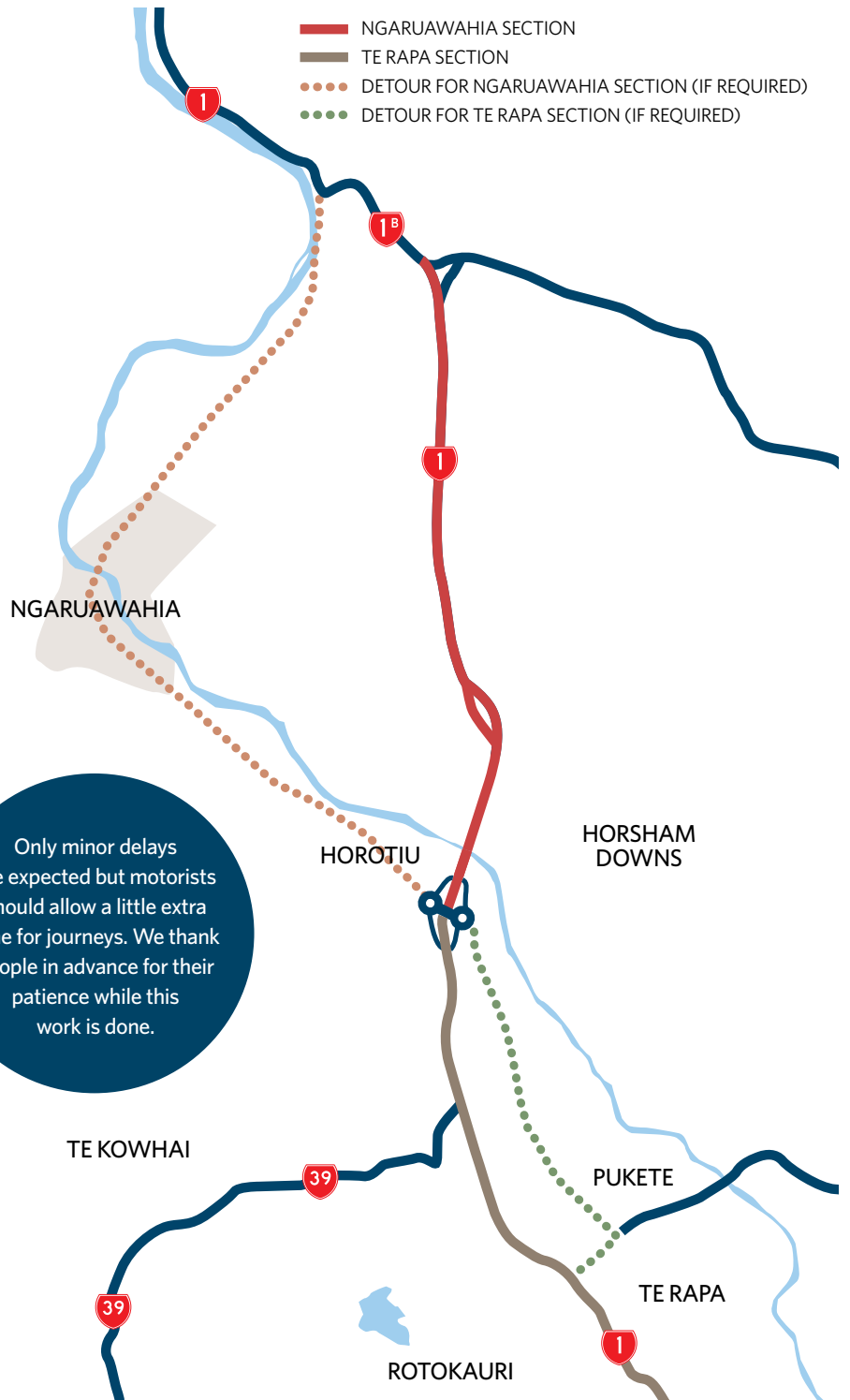
More strength in new design

The Transport Agency has developed a new road surface design for the Waikato called Hi-Lab. This has been developed based on the quality of the aggregate supply available to build road surfaces.


Trial sections of Hi-Lab on both the Te Rapa and Ngaruawahia sections continue to perform well, while the surfaces surrounding them have the rutting problems.

The remaining three sections of the Waikato Expressway - Longswamp, Huntly and Hamilton - are being constructed using Hi-Lab and follow our supplied specification.


Only minor delays are expected but motorists should allow a little extra time for journeys. We thank people in advance for their patience while this work is done.



Keeping you up to date

 Under Surface Works tab
nzta.govt.nz/waikatoexpressway

 [waikatoexpressway](https://www.facebook.com/waikatoexpressway)

 Real-time traffic information
journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/regions/3

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If you want to know more

Te Rapa repairs, Fulton Hogan

24-hours, 0800 WAI NOC (0800 924 662)

Ngaruawahia repairs, Higgins Contractors

Dean Breedt 027 551 8479