



Ngāruawāhia remedial and safety works



Pavement works continue at the southern end of the current worksite, with safety barriers separating workers and traffic.

A lot to do to get to 110km/h standard

Work to repair and improve the Ngāruawāhia section of SH1-Waikato Expressway is now well under way.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is bringing the Ngāruawāhia section (between the Gordonton Road and Horotiu interchanges) up to the same standard as neighbouring expressway sections, which enables a speed limit of 110km/h.

Since a site shutdown over the holidays, when the barriers were moved to accommodate all four lanes, work has resumed on:

- Reshaping and hardening the median area – to limit moisture entering the pavement and prevent further failures
- Drainage improvements
- Trailing pavement treatments depending on the existing pavement condition

The safety improvements are seeing side barriers made continuous, some barriers upgraded, additional maintenance and turnaround bays for emergency services, shoulder widening and some lighting relocations.

A final, continuous asphalt surface will complete the repair works, replacing the temporary chipseal surface and the sections of stone mastic asphalt, which have been in place during temporary repairs and while moisture monitoring was conducted.

The Ngāruawāhia section opened in late 2013. It was built by Fletcher Construction under a design and construct contract. The current works are being completed by Fletcher Construction with

the repair portion completed under a cost-sharing arrangement with Waka Kotahi.

The works are expected to finish in May 2024 although Waka Kotahi and its contractors are continuing to look at programming and resources to have the work finished earlier.

Please respect our workers

We are asking people driving through the project to show some respect for Fletcher Construction staff and their contractors.

The ongoing traffic management is causing congestion at peak times but we ask motorists to not direct their frustration at road workers doing their job.

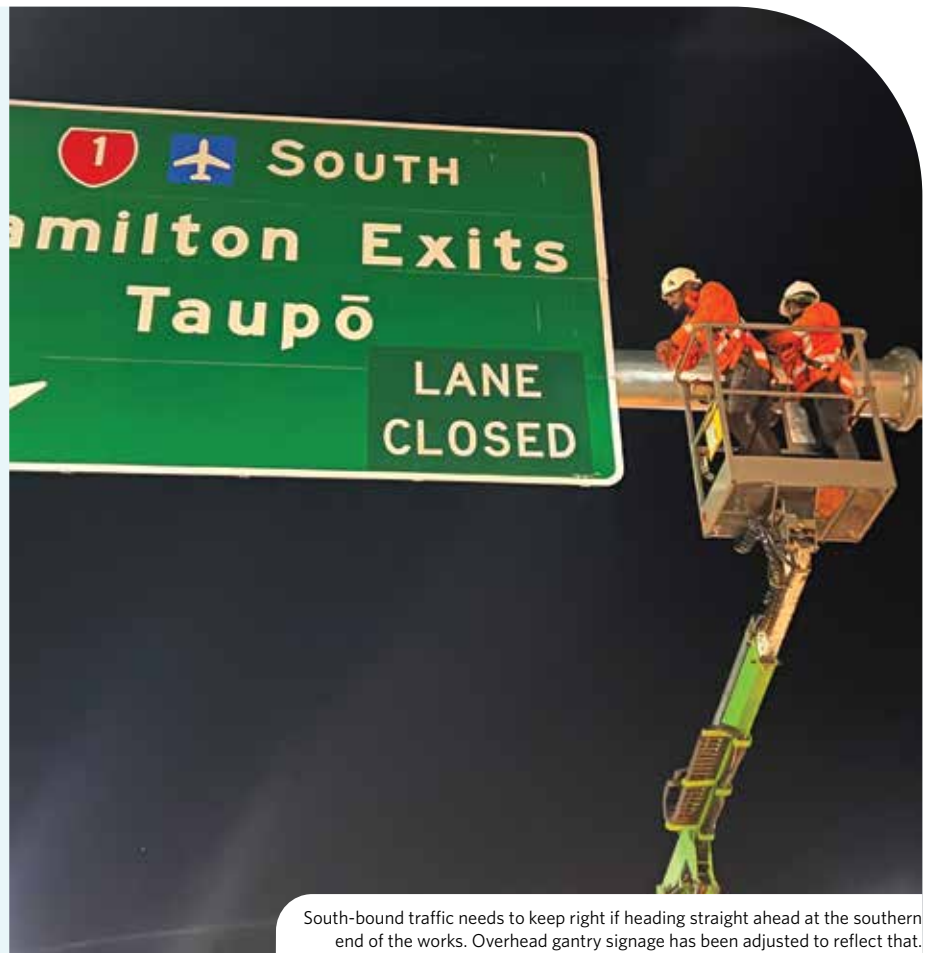
The people on the ground are there in all types of weather to fix this section of highway and make safety improvements to get it to 110km/h standard.

Queuing early helps traffic flow

With traffic down to a single lane in each direction, drivers need to take care – watch for traffic slowing or queuing.

Forming a single lane early helps traffic flow – so merge like a zip. Don't be the person who zooms past traffic and joins the single lane late – that slows down everyone.

South-bound traffic has the added challenge of needing to split left to head to Te Rapa/Frankton/Raglan etc or straight ahead to Hamilton's eastern suburbs or Cambridge and beyond. The latter option remains a single lane and the large gantry signage has been temporarily tweaked to help (pictured).



South-bound traffic needs to keep right if heading straight ahead at the southern end of the works. Overhead gantry signage has been adjusted to reflect that.

Traffic management will be changing

To keep workers safe and separate from SH1 traffic, temporary steel barriers are in place. The barriers create a safe space for workers, but mean traffic is restricted to a single lane in each direction.

Right now we have traffic on both south and north-bound lanes but this will change mid-year to all sharing north or south lanes with "crossovers" created.

These changes will see the safety barriers moved which will require occasional night-time closures.

Later this year we will be working at the Gordonton Road Interchange on and off-ramps which will involve some night-time ramp closures.

With these night-time detours required from time to time, roadside message boards will provide a week's notice along with our usual communications.

The detour route, which adds about five minutes to journey times, will always be well signposted on to the old state highway route through Ngāruawāhia.

However HPMVs must use SH1B, including the local road detour at Telephone Road. Over-weight vehicles need to use SH2/27, under an existing Overweight permit.

A big thank you from us

On behalf of Waka Kotahi and Fletcher Construction, thank you to road users and nearby residents for your patience and understanding while we get this important work completed.

Got a question?

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