

intransit

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History in making for Cape's dusty winding road

Relationships forged almost a decade ago have created the foundations for one of Transit's most culturally significant and internationally visible projects – the sealing and widening of State Highway 1 from Waitiki Landing to Cape Reinga.

It will be a historic moment for SH1 when the last unsealed stretch of the highway that spans the entire country is turned from a narrow, winding, dusty gravel road into a wide, smooth sealed ride. Construction started last month on the 19 km stretch of road and is due for completion in 2010.

The road was originally formed from a farm track around half a century ago and was never designed as a state highway. It has more than 100 curves and is travelled by up to 1,300 vehicles every day during the summer. The new road will be safer with the sharp corners eased.

Planning for the project developed through close consultation between Transit, the Department of Conservation



The dusty gravel drive to Cape Reinga will be replaced by a smooth sealed ride.

(DOC), local iwi Ngati Kuri and Te Aupouri and the wider local community. The close relationship between DOC and local iwi has helped Transit engineers develop techniques to protect the land during construction and restore the site after the road has been built.

"The ecological and cultural significance of the area makes these relationships even more important in helping the project succeed," says Transit Northern regional manager Peter Spies.

More than 150,000 plants are being grown from locally gathered seeds in a nursery developed by Ngati Kuri in partnership with Transit and DOC. They will re-vegetate the roadsides to help prevent erosion and will be planted by the community.

DOC is removing visitor facilities at Cape Reinga that are inappropriately located



The windy road ahead to be a thing of the past by 2010.

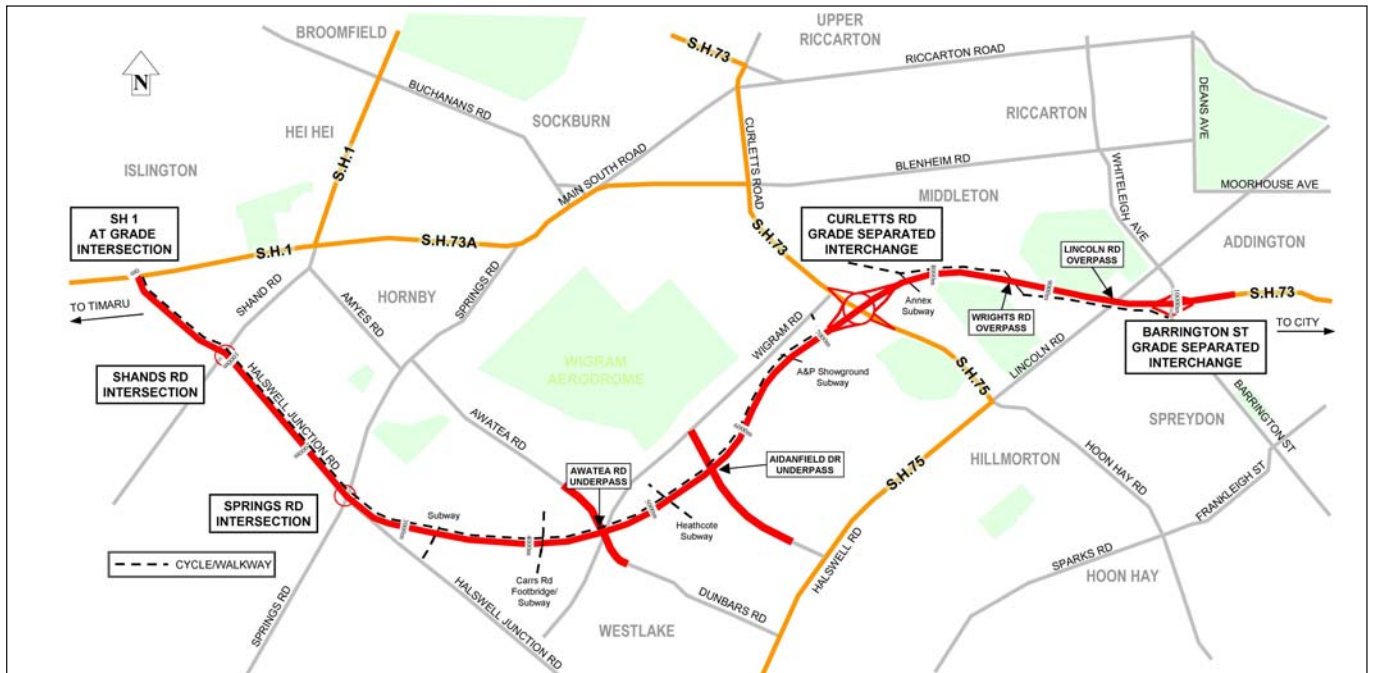
on an area sacred to Māori. Information boards will be installed to explain the project.

Earthworks have started on SH1 and drainage works have been underway for several weeks. ▣



A New Zealand icon, the Cape Reinga lighthouse will be reached by a widened and sealed SH1 in 2010 instead of the current winding, dusty gravel road.

Christchurch Southern Motorway a step closer



Christchurch Southern Motorway layout.

Christchurch Southern Motorway is a step closer, with Transit New Zealand seeking feedback from the public, which will help finalise the design of the motorway.

“Comments and feedback that we receive from the public will play a very important role when considering the final design so it’s vital that people take time to let us know what they think of the project,” says Transit Christchurch regional manager Colin Knaggs.

The Christchurch Southern Motorway is part of Christchurch’s integrated transport strategy and a key element in the implementation of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy.

Estimated to cost \$110 million, the motorway will provide a strategic

Comments and feedback that we receive from the public will play a very important role.

arterial route between the city and the southwest for through traffic, and will alleviate existing congestion on adjacent routes. It will also provide a key link to the port of Lyttleton.

Consultation has been ongoing since 2002 and has culminated in a preferred option for the motorway. The current plans can be viewed on the Transit website at www.transit.govt.nz/projects. An online feedback form can also be downloaded from the website. You have until 2 November 2007 to

provide comments and feedback.

“We are assessing all potential environmental effects that the motorway might have on the community. This includes issues such as noise, cultural, heritage and traffic and construction related impacts. We are also giving consideration to landscaping along the main motorway corridor,” says Colin.

“Transit plans to lodge resource consent applications with the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury. Subject to obtaining approvals and completing land acquisition, we hope to be in a position to start construction in 2009/10. With six bridges and 10 kilometres of roadway to build the motorway, it will take three years to complete.”

Major Bay of Plenty projects under spotlight

The go-ahead has been given to investigate two major projects proposed for the western Bay of Plenty to help future-proof the growing populations of Katikati and Omokoroa.

In Katikati, the long-standing designation for the Katikati Bypass will be investigated. This would be a new road bypassing the existing section of SH2

that runs through the township. Part of this investigation will also include two intersection improvement projects: traffic signals at Marshall Road and a roundabout at Wharawhara Road.

At nearby Omokoroa, Transit will investigate the designation for a new roundabout at the intersection of SH2 and Omokoroa Road. The proposed

roundabout would service the Omokoroa peninsula where growth is expected to increase from 2,200 population at present to 12,000 by 2036.

Public consultation will be undertaken as part of the investigations and is expected to begin in early 2008 once tenders have been awarded.

Old Tumai accident black route no more

Road users on State Highway 1 between Oamaru and Dunedin will be pleased to see that the Tumai-Waikouaiti realignment has now been officially opened. The new realignment avoids the old stretch of state highway that was known as an accident 'black route' with a serious crash history.

The opening held at Waikouaiti at the end of September marked Transit's successful completion of the work ahead of time and on budget. The ceremony, which involved tree planting, was attended by Minister of Transport Hon Annette King and many other dignitaries and stakeholders including local community representatives.

Annette King said the \$7 million project is a great example of the Government's ongoing commitment to highway safety, the 2010 road safety targets and to the development of this country's most strategic land transport infrastructure.

"The reduction of death and injury on our roads requires a collaborative effort in terms of engineering improvements, education, enforcement, vehicle safety enhancements, and central and regional government and public commitment. I am really pleased to see so many elements of the equation coming



From left: Transit Dunedin Regional Office Mike O'Cain, Minister of Transport Hon Annette King, Dunedin City Council Mayor Peter Chin, local councillor Andrew Noone, Transit Acting Chair Bryan Jackson and local iwi representative Mat Ellison plant the tree.

together in this project."

The Tumai-Waikouaiti realignment project was one of the largest projects carried out recently in the Otago and Southland regions.

The 3.4 kilometre realignment bypasses a set of tight curves and includes a northbound passing lane.

Transit Dunedin Regional Manager Mike O'Cain says that, as well as being safer for motorists, the realignment is safer for cyclists because it bypasses the very narrow Tumai rail overbridge and features wider sealed shoulders.

This is a great example of the Government's ongoing commitment to highway safety.

"The overall safety improvement work done on the new realignment makes State Highway 1 safer for local people and for those travelling through the area."

Between 4,500 and 5,000 vehicles travel every day on this busy stretch of road between Dunedin and Oamaru. ☑

Rotokauri roundabout opens to traffic in Hamilton



Rotokauri Roundabout with showing areas under construction.

A major milestone was reached in the construction of the State Highway 1 Avalon Drive Bypass in Hamilton city at the end of September, with the opening of the Rotokauri Roundabout to traffic. The early opening of the roundabout has enabled Transit to fast track the connection of Crawford Street to the roundabout, and made it much easier for trucks and other vehicles to access the container rail terminal. The Bypass leg of the roundabout will be connected when the project is completed, in early 2009. ☑

New ramp signals manage traffic flow

Five more sets of ramp signals have gone live on Auckland's Southern Motorway as the second phase of Transit's ramp signalling project gets underway.

Ramp signals began operating at St Mark's Road and Khyber Pass on-ramps from Monday 15 October, followed by signals at Grafton Road, Symonds Street and Hobson Street from Tuesday 23 October.

Ramp signals – traffic lights at on-ramps that operate at peak times to manage the rate at which vehicles move down the ramp and onto the motorway – help improve traffic flows and safety on the motorway, while enabling more consistent speeds and travel times.

Transit project director Peter McCombs says ramp signals have helped increase the traffic flow of vehicles travelling on SH1 to the Auckland Harbour Bridge. "Data gathered shows that during the nine months since these signals were turned on, peak period motorway travel speeds have improved by 12 percent and traffic flow increased by up to 18 percent. Without greatly increasing anyone's total trip time, the vast majority of journeys in the system are quicker," he says.

The Grafton Road on-ramp will incorporate the first trucks-only priority lane to allow trucks to bypass the ramp signals for smoother access onto the Southern



Electronic sign 'Prepare to Stop' advises motorists of ramp signals ahead.

Motorway. Eleven selected on-ramps across the Southern, Northern and Northwestern motorways will feature priority lanes for trucks and buses, with high occupancy vehicles being added later.

Five ramp signals already operate at on-ramps in Papakura, Takanini and on the Northwestern to Northern motorway link through the Central Motorway Junction, as well as at Wellington Street and Curran Street. Transit plans to install ramp signals over three major Auckland motorways in the next two years: 31 on the Southern Motorway, 15 on the Northern Motorway and 15 on the Northwestern Motorway. Another 14 are planned for the Western Ring Route between Manukau and Albany.

For more information on ramp signalling visit: www.transit.govt.nz/project/rampsignalling.

inbrief

Everybody wins when the bus comes first

Transit, along with the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury, is considering measures to help improve bus service reliability in Christchurch. Transit is looking at bus measures on Main North Road, which is the northern gateway to the city for buses to and from the Waimakariri District, and Main South Road, which is city's southern gateway for buses to and from the Selwyn District.

Transit would now like to hear from the public to get their feedback on proposed bus measures, such as bus lanes, special traffic lights for buses and better spacing of bus stops. For more information on this project and how to provide feedback by 29 October for Main North Road, and by 5 November for Main South Road, visit www.transit.govt.nz.

Transit to build bridges in flood protection project

Transit will replace the Tararu and Te Puru bridges on SH25 to help protect the area from severe flooding as part of the Coromandel's Peninsula Project. This is a multi-agency project in which Environment Waikato, Thames-Coromandel District Council, Department of Conservation and Hauraki Maori Trust are working together to manage flood risk on the Thames Coast.

Tararu Bridge has served the community since 1940 and Te Puru since 1951. But, during previous severe floods, the bridges and river channels could not accommodate the floodwaters. Once the new bridges are complete, the flow from even a 100-year flood will be able to pass beneath each bridge. Transit will build temporary detours and use a single-lane Bailey bridge so the road can remain open during construction.

Board meeting

The next Transit board meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 November. The open agenda is from 2.30pm.

What's on

› Train the Trainers – Refresher Courses for Level 1 Roads

Contact Kimberley Ng, (04) 496 6688 or copttm.qualis@transit.govt.nz

› Level 1 STMS Trainers Refresher – 23 November 2007, Taupo

› Level 1 STMS Train the Trainer Course – 27-29 November 2007, Taupo

Contact Stuart Fraser, (04) 496 6698 or stuart.fraser@transit.govt.nz

› Road Safety Barrier Systems Workshop – 4-5 December 2007, Taupo

Contact Stuart Fraser (see details above). Registration forms www.transit.govt.nz

› Level 2/3 STMS Training Courses

Auckland

STMS NP on 6 & 7 November 2007

STMS NP on 17 & 18 December 2007

Hamilton

STMS NP on 6 & 7 December 2007

Contact John Boyson, (09) 428 0018 or 021 207 3954

Wellington

STMS NP on 1 & 2 November 2007

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