

# SH20 WALMSLEY UPGRADE PROJECT

PROJECT FACT SHEET

SEPTEMBER 2010



Over the next year, the NZ Transport Agency and its partners forming the Manukau Harbour Crossing Alliance will be undertaking road widening works and other improvements on the South-western Motorway (SH20) at the Walmsley Road Interchange.

## WHAT DOES THE WORK INVOLVE?

### The works involve:

- ▶ Adding a third southbound lane to carry on from under the Walmsley Road overbridge to just south of the Hall Avenue foot bridge
- ▶ Realigning and lengthening the Walmsley Road on-ramp
- ▶ Building a barrier next to the Walmsley Road on-ramp to prevent vehicles from crossing to SH20A (to the Auckland Airport)
- ▶ Lengthening the Hall Avenue foot bridge to fit over the widened motorway
- ▶ Placing a new noise wall along this length of SH20 (southbound side)
- ▶ Landscaping

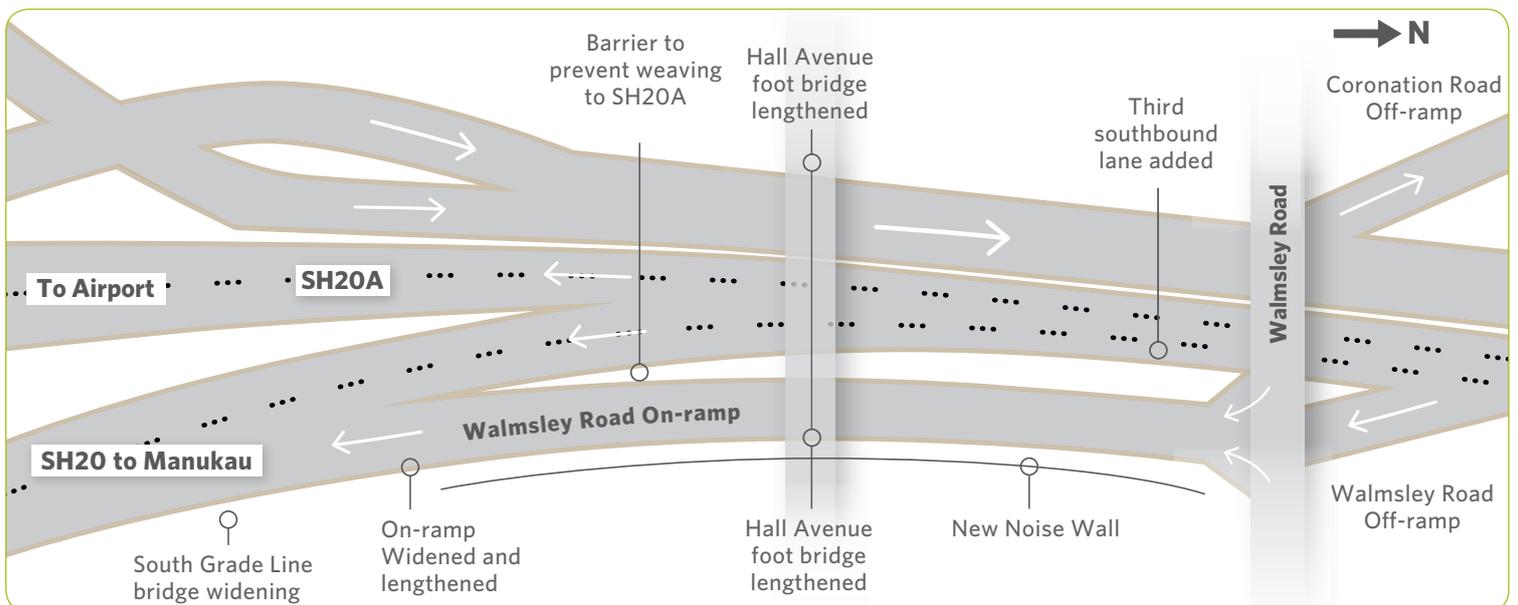
## WHY ARE WE DOING THE WORK?

SH20 comprises three southbound lanes from Queenstown Road, and then reduces to two lanes south of Walmsley Road prior to the split to SH20 and SH20A. This presents a "bottleneck" that is anticipated to get worse in the next few years, posing safety and congestion issues. There are already signs of traffic slowing down and doing dangerous weaves.

Traffic using the Walmsley Road on-ramp heading to SH20A (the Airport route) is another issue of concern. There is limited distance to cross lanes and increasing traffic volumes will cause conflict between vehicles wanting to change lanes and those going straight ahead. This is likely to increase accidents and congestion on the motorway.

**Widening the motorway and adding one more southbound lane will solve the bottleneck issue.**

However traffic from the Walmsley Road on-ramp would then need to cross two lanes to reach SH20A. There is not enough room to change lanes safely, so a barrier will be built next to the on-ramp to prevent this.



## WESTERN RING ROUTE

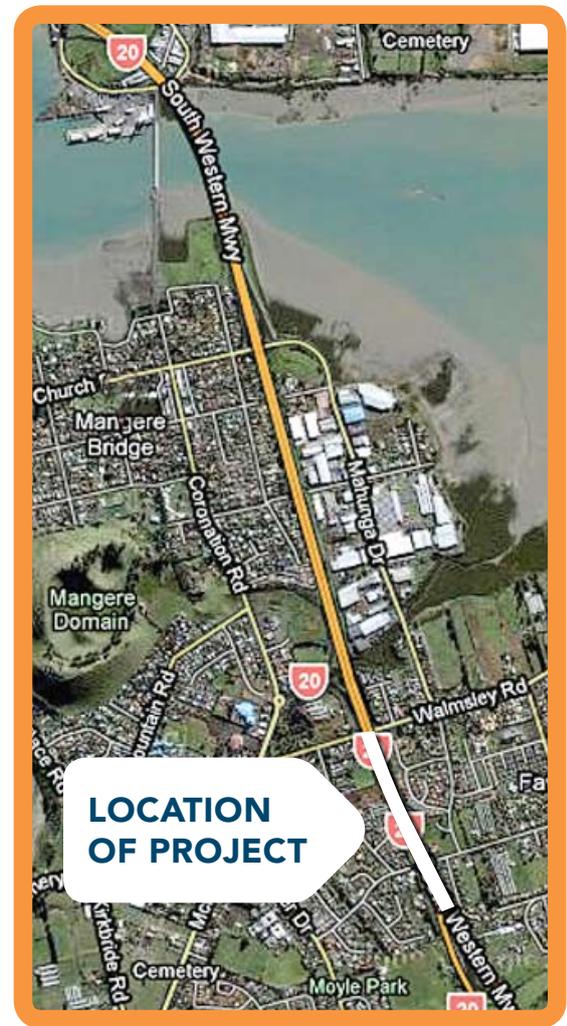
SH20 is a key section of the Western Ring Route, a Road of National Significance that will deliver economic benefits and development along the corridor, in particular west and southwest Auckland. The Walmsley Upgrade works will contribute to the regional benefits created by the completion of this important link, which is an alternative to SH1 and the Auckland Harbour Bridge for travel between Albany and Manukau. Both safety and reliability of travel times to Manukau and the Auckland Airport will be improved.

## ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR TRAVEL TO SH20A

Due to safety concerns, movement from the Walmsley Road on-ramp to SH20A will be stopped from about February 2011. Alternative routes for traffic heading to SH20A from this area, include:

- ▶ Travelling further south on SH20 and exiting at Massey Road
- ▶ Travelling further south on SH20 and exiting at Puhinui Road (SH20B)
- ▶ Travelling via McKenzie and Kirkbride Roads, which is already a sign-posted route to the airport

The NZ Transport Agency anticipates that any potential traffic effects of the diversion will be no more than minor. We will put a monitoring program in place to ensure that there are no significant impacts on the state highway or local network, and long-term planning will consider other transport improvements.



LOCATION  
OF PROJECT

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION?

**We want to cause as little disruption to the local community as possible when we are undertaking the work.**

**Hours of work:** Most work will be done during the day, Monday-Friday. Work on the weekend and at night may be needed from time to time to move safety barriers, mark new lanes, remove the old footbridge ramp, and install the new ramp. Whenever night work is planned, we will advise nearby residents of what to expect and who they can contact if they have questions or concerns.

**Vegetation removal:** All of the planting and vegetation alongside the motorway will need to be removed to make room for the construction works. The edge of the motorway will be replanted, where possible.

**Earthworks, Noise, Vibrations and Dust:** During earthworks and construction, there may be temporary additional noise, vibrations and dust. We will do what we can to minimise disturbance.

**Hall Avenue foot bridge:** The Hall Avenue foot bridge will be lengthened to fit over the widened motorway. Access will be maintained during these works. The local community will be given advance notice of access arrangements.

### WHEN ARE WE DOING THE WORK AND HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

Road widening and noise wall construction is planned to begin by early October 2010. The work is expected to be completed within 10 to 11 months.

### WHO ARE WE?

We are an Alliance between the NZ Transport Agency, Fletcher Construction, Beca Infrastructure, and Higgins Contractors.

## QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

*We appreciate your support while we work on this necessary project.*

The MHX Alliance has a stakeholder team who look after the interests of residents and others affected by the project. If after reading this Information Sheet you have any questions about the work, please do not hesitate to contact us via email: [info@mhx.co.nz](mailto:info@mhx.co.nz)

**0800 7420 649**

(0800 SH20 MHX)

We also welcome your feedback about any matter that you think we should be aware of so that we can understand the particular effects of construction on you.