



# Ngauranga to Aotea Quay upgrade

Putting the smarts into Wellington's urban motorway

PROJECT UPDATE NO. 5

DECEMBER 2015



## THE SMARTS BEHIND THE SMART MOTORWAY

Everyone is better off when traffic moves smoothly and journey times are predictable. That's why the NZ Transport Agency aims to reduce congestion where possible.

Smart motorways ease congestion by reducing the stop-start nature of congested traffic that sees motorists drive at speed until they reach the back of the queue then rapidly slow down. Pacing the traffic smoothes the flow. It delays the onset and reduces the length of congestion and makes journey times more predictable.

Wellington's smart motorway has been under construction for almost a year. And while the on-road changes are obvious to anyone who's been through the area, the work going on behind the scenes to build the smart system is less visible.

Neil Walker, the Transport Agency's Highway Manager says, 'The traffic model being developed for our smart



motorway is unique to our local situation. We're combining aspects of the existing Wellington traffic model with new technology that continuously collects traffic data, such as speed and volume.

'The model predicts, in real time, what's likely to happen on the road network as congestion builds. It'll activate the smart system to change the speed limit before congestion becomes visible.'

The smart motorway will operate between Johnsonville and the Terrace Tunnel. It'll make travel times more predictable during peak times and free up nearby roads for better public transport trips, and an improved walking and cycling environment.



Johnsonville to Terrace Tunnel  
Opens early 2016

New Zealand Government

## REAL TIME UPDATES FOR THE SMART CAPITAL - SAVE THE LINK

We've launched a new mobile friendly website called DriveLive Smart Capital to provide up-to-the-minute journey times for key routes within the Wellington region.

The site - [drivelive.nz/smartcapital](http://drivelive.nz/smartcapital) - provides information about journeys to and from the Terrace Tunnel to the airport, to locations on the way to Kapiti along State Highway 1, and to State Highway 58 (the Haywards Hill Road) along State Highways 1 and 2. The information is updated every five minutes.

### How it works

Anonymous Bluetooth devices such as mobile phones, headsets and navigation systems register as they pass tracking units along the highway. The tracking units do not gather or record personal information and cannot be linked to an individual.

Save the link for DriveLive Smart Capital to your phone but only check it when it's safe to do so.

Check travel times before you drive.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

**New overhead gantries** - four new gantries were installed during four closures of the urban motorway in November.

**Central median barrier** - 1300m of the concrete extruded median barrier has been built with another 1100m to go. The barrier extruding machine will be back on site in January to continue its progress south.

**Christmas break** - we'll be taking a break over Christmas but we'll be back on the road on 5 January to make progress while most Wellingtonians are still enjoying their summer holiday.

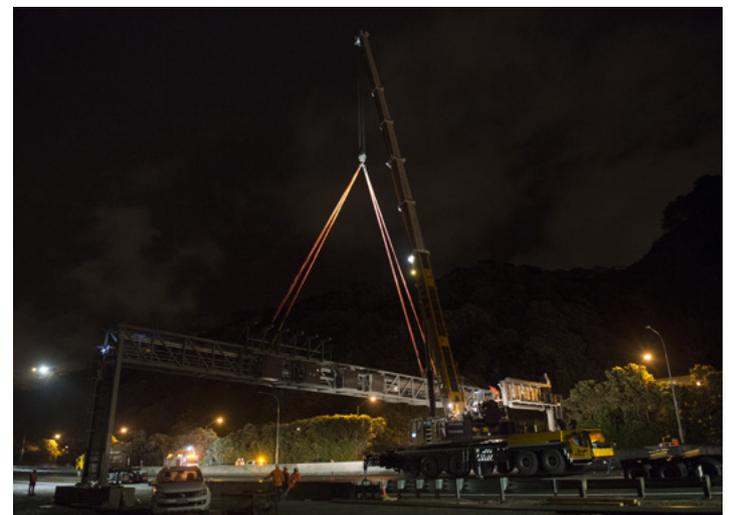


Lining up the 36 bolts while lowering the 6 tonne gantry leg into place.

## BEING A SMART DRIVER ON THE SMART MOTORWAY

Everyone will benefit from the smart motorway when everyone does the right thing. And understanding the smart system will help you become a smart driver. The square electronic lane control signs are the main information source for drivers on the smart motorway. Lane control signs have three display options.

1. **Mandatory variable speed limit** - the speed displayed on the electronic signs is the legal speed limit. While it might seem odd to be slowed down when you can't see congestion ahead, following the posted speed limit is part of being a smart driver. (It's also important to minimise lane changes.)
2. **Red X** - when an incident occurs or work is being carried out on the road, the red X is displayed to close a lane. It's illegal and potentially very dangerous to drive under a red X.
3. **Arrow** - directs drivers to change lanes in time to keep traffic flowing smoothly.



Lifting the new cross-motorway gantry into position on 14 November.

### **i** CONTACT

Email us and/or sign up for our newsletter at [ntaq@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:ntaq@nzta.govt.nz)

Find out more at [nzta.govt.nz/smartmotorway](http://nzta.govt.nz/smartmotorway)

Visit the smart information site in the **Johnsonville Mall**

Sign up for Twitter updates [@nztawgtn](https://twitter.com/nztawgtn)

**Slower today**

**better tomorrow**