



## NEWMARKET CONNECTION VIADUCT REPLACEMENT PROJECT NEWSLETTER

### The rise of the machine

... *A highly visible addition to the Auckland skyline, the imposing 'Big Blue' construction gantry will allow rapid progress to be made on the new four-lane southbound bridge - Stage 1 of the Newmarket Connection project*

So this is what 800 tonnes of blue steel looks like then! Perching high above Newmarket, the Overhead Launching Gantry is now fully operational, lifting and installing up to four bridge segments a day on the new southbound motorway bridge.

Having already installed over 20 segments at the northern end, the 'Big Blue' will now gradually propel itself south, building the new bridge deck as it goes. We expect to move southbound traffic onto the new structure as early as this November, however due to the proximity between new and old, all four lanes will not be in use until next February, once the deconstruction process is underway. See inside for a full rundown on our staged construction programme.

Tie-in work at both ends of the new bridge is progressing well. All major work around Gillies Ave is taking place at night to ensure this key access point to both Newmarket and the airport can remain open through the day.

Meanwhile at the southern abutment, the St Marks Rd on-ramp is partially open following an extended New Year closure.



**WELCOME TO THE BLUE ROOM** The striking blue framework of the 120-metre long gantry houses a complex arrangement of hydraulics, pulleys and generators to facilitate safe and speedy installation of the bridge deck segments

A further full closure at Easter should allow us to reopen the on-ramp fully (both lanes) by the middle of the year.

To all members of the local community and motorists, thank you for your ongoing patience and support.

#### Also in this issue

- Community Open Day details
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# New pedestrian crossing for Broadway

*A new signalised intersection, being installed as part of the Newmarket Connection project, will provide a much needed pedestrian crossing point across Newmarket's busiest thoroughfare*

The new bridge and the show-stopping machinery above Broadway may grab all the attention, however there is more to the Newmarket Connection project than enhancing motorway traffic flow.

The days of one-dimensional infrastructure projects are long gone, as we explore the opportunities they can provide to improve the local environment through a more sophisticated, urban design integrated approach. In the case of Newmarket Connection, given that the viaduct straddles a busy retail hub and is surrounded by numerous schools, we have made a further commitment to improve pedestrian flow and safety.

Other future pedestrian improvements associated with the project include a volcanic-themed walkway from Gillies Ave down to Broadway and an upgraded footbridge over the motorway at Mt Hobson Road. But for now, the new crossing, midway between the Great South Rd intersection and Westfield's 277 shopping mall, provides a clear step in the right direction.

"We have talked about the need for a signalised pedestrian crossing around this part of Broadway for years," comments Cameron Brewer, Chief Executive of the Newmarket Business Association.

"With over 40,000 cars travelling down Broadway every day, not to mention our busy bus lanes, too many people risk their lives on a daily basis crossing near our only Post Office. This amenity will not only be great for safety, but good for business and will help urban renewal long term."



**SKETCHY DETAILS** An artist's impression of the new signalised crossing, which is being installed outside Newmarket's Post Office to improve pedestrian safety across the southern end of Broadway

# Mt Hobson Road noise wall in focus

*Installed early in the project to provide maximum acoustic benefit for local residents, the Mt Hobson Road noise wall will be extensively landscaped over the coming months*

One of the major challenges for the Newmarket Connection project is to increase capacity across what is the busiest stretch of motorway in the country, while simultaneously reducing its footprint on the local community.

Not only is the Newmarket Viaduct highly visible, it's audible too, therefore a key component of the new bridge design and the wider project scope addresses how to improve the surrounding acoustic environment.

As part of the overall acoustic treatment, a two metre high concrete noise wall has been installed next to the motorway along Mt Hobson Road. The concrete wall will ultimately be extended to the Remuera

Rackets Club building, following an upgrade of the Dilworth motorway footbridge.

Given the tricky ground conditions adjacent to the motorway and the vast number of services that run along the alignment, the noise wall installation required the removal of much of the existing shrubbery - more than had first been envisaged. To mitigate this, we have revised our initial landscaping plans and will soon be planting larger shrubs and trees to create a greener outlook for residents. This will begin at the start of the Autumn planting season.

We'll provide an update on the noise wall planting and information on the Dilworth footbridge upgrade on our website and in the next quarterly newsletter.



**PLEASING QUIET** A solid 2 metre high concrete noise wall now offers acoustic protection from motorway noise for the residents of Mt Hobson Road ... there's no hiding the Big Blue thing though!



**KEEP ON MOVING** The replacement of the Newmarket Viaduct is just one link in a chain of improvements designed to tackle Auckland's notorious traffic woes and release the full benefits of previous upgrades to the central motorway network.

## Paving the way for World Cup glory

*While Newmarket Connection Stage 1 will increase southbound motorway capacity in time for the 2011 Rugby World Cup, two other major projects are also making rapid progress to enhance traffic flow in and out of the city ahead of the country's showpiece event*

The Victoria Park Tunnel (VPT) project is one of the government's Roads of National Significance, and will complete the final link in the central Auckland motorway network capacity upgrade.

The recently commenced project covers the section of SH1 between the Harbour Bridge and Wellington Street, at the heart of which will be the construction of a 440m tunnel adjacent to the existing flyover.

The tunnel will accommodate three northbound lanes, with the flyover carrying four lanes south. The motorway will also be widened through St Mary's Bay to provide five traffic lanes each way and a bus lane.

[www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/victoria-park-tunnel](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/victoria-park-tunnel)



Over on SH20, the Manukau Harbour Crossing project (pictured), which will provide safer, quicker and easier travel to and from the airport, is progressing ahead of schedule and is likely to be completed in early 2011.

Not only will the project increase traffic capacity and provide priority lanes for buses across the Manukau Harbour between Mangere and Onehunga, it will also create improved local cycling and walkways.

The project is a key part of the Western Ring Route which, when completed, will provide a viable alternative to State Highway 1 between Manukau City and Albany.

[www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/mhc](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/mhc)

## Guest column

2009 may have seen the Newmarket Connection project quite literally get off the ground, however 2010 promises to be even more exciting.

Having operated below most people's radar for much of last year, we now couldn't be any more visible. The gantry - or 'Big Blue Thing' as seems to be its new nickname - will allow us to speed ahead with construction of the new southbound bridge, and deliver on our promise to enhance motorway capacity before the Rugby World Cup.

Once traffic is moved onto the new structure later this year, we will then begin the tricky business of dismantling half of the existing viaduct ... a process that demands genuinely world-first engineering technology. Well I told you it was going to be exciting!

As project manager, my number one priority is safety, for my team and for the thousands of Aucklanders that we are working alongside. Therefore I'm delighted that motorists are respecting the new speed limits across the bridge. These speed limits are integral to us being able to keep all lanes open as we work alongside it, so your patience and cooperation is much appreciated.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend our upcoming Community Open Day ... please see over the page for more on what we have planned. Thanks for your ongoing support - and here's to a great 2010.



**IAN HARBECK** is the Project Manager on the Newmarket Connection: Viaduct Replacement Project.



## Newmarket Connection online

You can now follow progress online through a variety of new media, not just at [www.nzta.govt.nz/newmarketconnection](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/newmarketconnection).

Every three months we will be posting a 10 minute film on the Newmarket Connection YouTube channel, incorporating interviews with the project team, and video and time-lapse footage of key construction activity. Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) - keyword **Newmarket Connection** for more information.

We also have a Twitter site, and will be 'Tweeting' whenever we feel the need to get something off our chest. Follow us at [www.twitter.com/Nmkt\\_Connection](http://www.twitter.com/Nmkt_Connection)

Every Friday we will be sending out an e-update on what to expect for the weeks ahead. Register to receive these updates at [info@nganewmarket.co.nz](mailto:info@nganewmarket.co.nz)



**THE FINAL STRAIGHT** The motorway lanes have been narrowed and the reduced 70km/h speed limit extended as far as Greenlane to allow work to begin on a fourth southbound lane from Market Road, which will complete Stage 1 of the Newmarket Connection project by February 2011.

## Safe with much less sound

*In addition to increasing motorway capacity, the Newmarket Connection: 4th Lane Extension will also provide increased safety and noise protection for residents with a new concrete barrier from Market Road to Greenlane*

For the construction team of Downer EDI Works, the 4th Lane Extension project is divided into three sections between Market Road and Greenlane. Since the project began in October last year, significant progress has already been made in all three.

90% of the works on Section 1 of the project, from the Market Road off-ramp to Market Road overbridge are now complete, including a drainage upgrade, pavement construction and lighting and barrier installation.

Excellent progress - including the completion of the new retaining wall - has also been made on Section 2, between the Market Road and Omaha Road overbridges. This is in line with a scheduled completion date here of the

end of June. Preliminary works on Section 3 (Omaha Bridge to Greenlane off-ramp) are also underway.

Completion of Section 3 will require regular night time lane closures on the Southern Motorway over the coming months, as the precast panels for the residents' noise wall are delivered and installed. These works are being carried out at night to minimise disruption, however motorists should leave more time for their journey when travelling south on SH1 at night.

With the valued support of residents and motorists, we are able to concentrate on completing the job as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience - and keep an eye out for our progress board at the end of Clonbern Road.

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## Stay informed.

**T** 0508 CONNECT (266 6328)

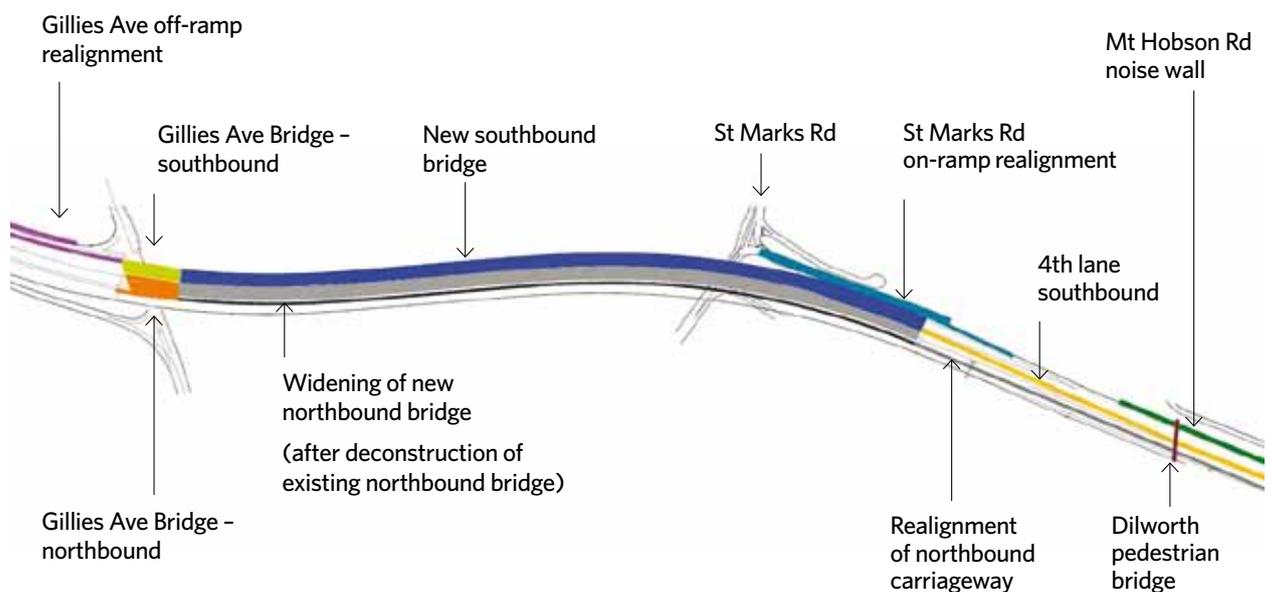
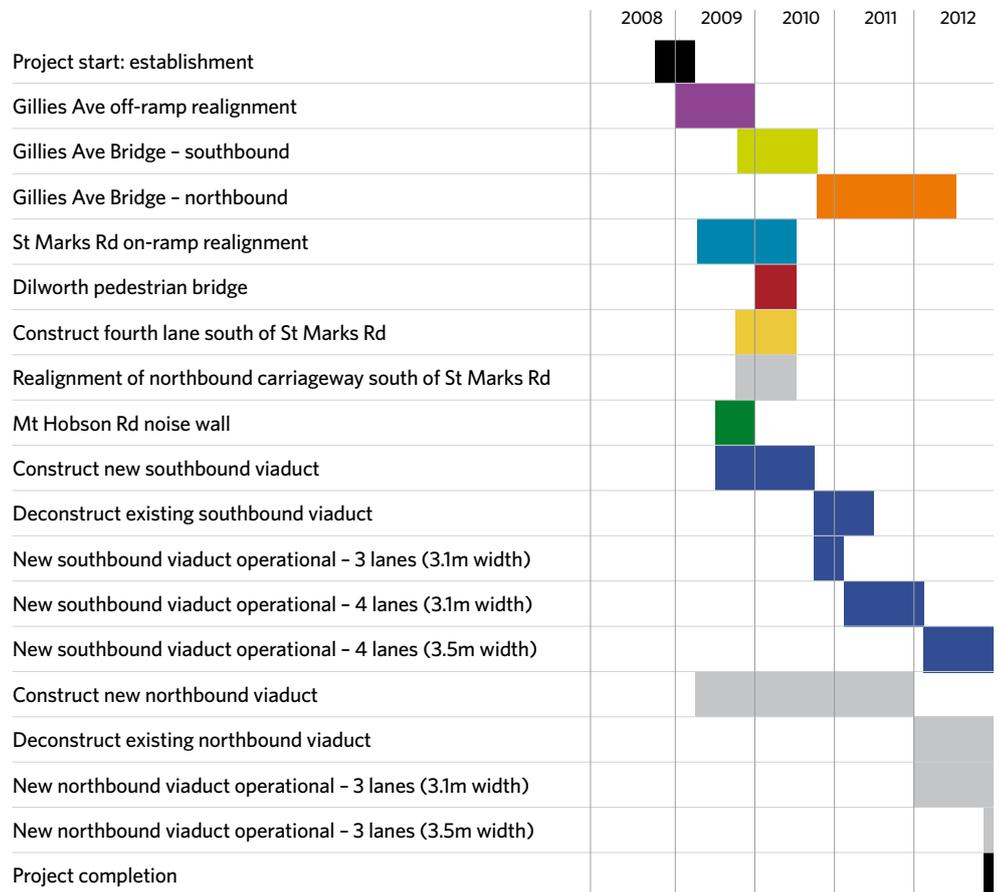
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# Newmarket Connection: Viaduct Replacement Project Construction Programme

Due to ongoing construction work, please drive with caution when travelling across the Newmarket Viaduct.



**Note:** This is an indicative programme and is subject to change

# Coming soon...

## Newmarket Connection Community Open Day



On Sunday May 16, we would love you to join us for a Newmarket Connection Community Open Day, which will be hosted by the NGA Newmarket project team.

Running from 9am to 3pm, the family occasion will not only allow you to find out everything you want to know about the project, but get up close and personal with the new bridge. A variety of stalls and live bands will all add to the community atmosphere and help the day appeal to all ages.

### Special events will include:

- Once-only opportunity to sign your name inside the new bridge
- Interactive displays and activities
- Access to special vantage points
- Children's photography
- Community stalls
- Live music

Pre-register your attendance and you will go into the draw to win the chance to walk on top of the new southbound bridge and check out how the big blue gantry works from directly underneath it. Only five winners will be drawn! Entries close Monday April 26 - conditions apply.

**Email [info@nganewmarket.co.nz](mailto:info@nganewmarket.co.nz) or freephone 0508 CONNECT (266 6328) to enter or for more details.**

### Stay informed.

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**Newmarket Connection**