

## There are less than 12 months until opening and the Tauranga Eastern Link is changing on a weekly, if not daily, basis.

Recent activity includes:

### Landscaping



Approximately two-thirds of the landscaping on the project has been completed.

### Domain Road interchange



The last of the three lightweight fill embankments are under construction.

### Mangatawa interchange



Settlement on the central embankment is complete and the surcharge has been removed. Barrier and pavement construction is underway.

### Toll point shelter



The technical shelter for the toll point is under construction and the concrete protection barriers are complete.

## The Mangatawa drain – soil nails and gabion baskets

The Mangatawa drain is a section of work that has not had much coverage, yet it is an integral part of the construction of the existing section of State Highway 2 (SH2).

The Mangatawa drain, along SH2 from Te Maunga to Domain Road, was originally built in the 1950s to divert the stormwater coming down from the Papamoa Hills. The drain flows west between SH2 and the East Coast Main Trunk (ECMT) railway line, and passes under Kairua Road, Bridge 77 (the rail bridge) and Mangatawa Lane, continuing for a further 1000m to the Rangataua Bay.

The previous natural flow path for the water was north into what was farm land but is now the Papamoa urban area.



Aerial of the Mangatawa drain



Gabion baskets within the Mangatawa drain



Soil nails being installed

**The improvement works along the drain will reduce erosion and stabilise the rail bridge embankments. This has been done using two methods:**

#### Method one

**Gabion baskets.** 660 stone filled wire baskets improve the stability of the sides of the drain. Approximately 200 metres of the drain has been reinforced using this technique.

#### Method two

**Installation of 85 soil nails into each bridge embankment.** The 8 metre soil nails are high tensile steel and are grouted into a ribbed plastic sheath which provides protection from corrosion. The soil nails anchor a steel reinforced sprayed concrete wall to the existing earth embankment providing additional slope stability and scour protection in a flood event.



Dawn on the TEL at the Parton Road bridge site

## Parton Road bridge to open to traffic early 2015



Once opened, the overbridge will lift Parton Road over the TEL maintaining access for rural, commercial and residential traffic to and from Papamoa East.

Since early 2013, a long-term temporary traffic diversion has been in place while the ground improvements and construction of the embankments and bridge structure has been underway.

The 12 piles for the bridge were driven to a founding depth of 44 metres and marked the last of the piling operations on the TEL. The placement of the super tee beams for the three bridge spans happened in early September.

The bridge measures 67 metres in length and is 12 metres wide, with a central span of 28.5 metres and outer spans of 15 metres. The majority of the planting on the embankments has been completed with the remainder to be done early next year.



The first of the outer span beams being lifted



A 28.5 metre super tee beam being lifted into place

**SIGN UP**



Stay up-to-date on TEL news by signing up to the TEL mailing list [www.nzta.govt.nz/tel-mailing-list](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/tel-mailing-list)



**Visit us at the TEL Visitor Information Centre**  
65 Tara Road, Papamoa. Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm.



**Phone us on**  
0800 tel info (0800 835 463)



**Visit our website**  
[www.nzta.govt.nz/tel](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/tel)  
for more construction images and videos.



**View the TEL from above** A 45 minute walk from the Papamoa Hills Regional Park car park will take you to the summit where binoculars have been installed, providing a view of the majority of the TEL.



**Like us on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/NZTAWaikatoBoP](https://www.facebook.com/NZTAWaikatoBoP)



**Follow us on Twitter**  
[www.twitter.com/NZTAwaibop](https://www.twitter.com/NZTAwaibop)