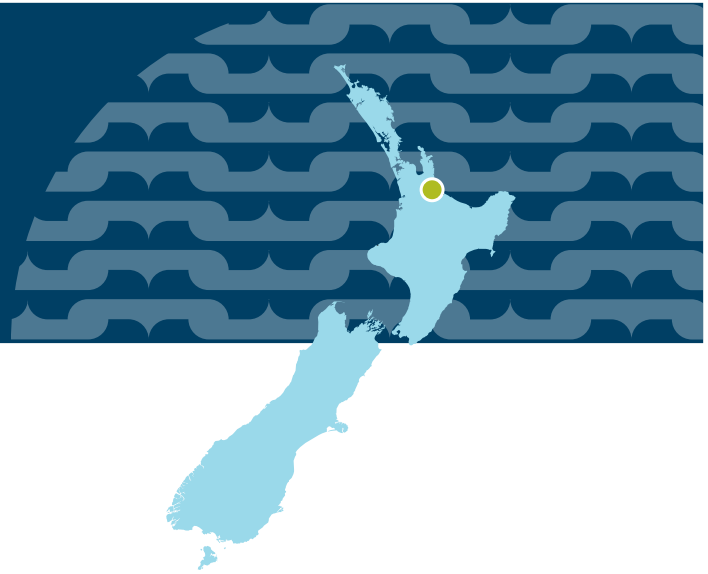


Takitimu North Link



Takitimu North Link Stage One will start construction, subject to property negotiations, later this year. Stage One is a 6.8km four-lane expressway between Tauranga and Te Puna.

State Highway 2 is a busy highway with a poor safety record.

The Takitimu North Link Stage One will significantly improve safety and accessibility, build resilience, support growth and provide more transport choice for communities.

Waka Kotahi has awarded the first part of the design and construct contract for Stage One. Design and preparatory activities are underway, while property negotiations continue.

Stage Two changes

The Government has decided route protection of Takitimu North Link Stage Two, a 7km extension between Te Puna and Ōmokoroa, will be progressed as part of the New Zealand Upgrade Programme.

However, further work beyond route protection, including construction, will require funding through the National Land Transport Programme. This won't occur within the next three years and is unlikely within the next 10 years.

The Government has decided to make the changes to meet climate change and housing objectives, as well as manage debt responsibly following COVID-19.

Waka Kotahi will work closely with potentially affected landowners on Stage Two to explain what it means for them.

At its peak of construction, 350–400 people will work on Takitimu North Link stage one. The full New Zealand Upgrade Programme investment is expected to support about 1400 direct jobs, as well as thousands more in the wider supply chain and economy.

Benefits

- Supports urban growth.
- Provide more transport choice.
- Significantly improve safety and accessibility.
- Build resilience.



Scope

Takitimu North Link Stage One

(between SH29 and SH2 near Te Puna)

Construction of:

- new 6.8km four-lane corridor
- use of two lanes to prioritise public transport, freight and vehicles carrying multiple people
- new 6.8km separated walking and cycling path
- new bridge crossing at Wairoa River
- overbridge interchange at Minden Road
- underpasses at Cambridge Road and Wairoa Road
- new westbound single lane connection from Fifteenth Avenue to Takitimu Drive Toll Road
- northbound flyover and southbound bypass lane at the SH29 interconnection/interface.

Takitimu North Link Stage Two

(between SH2 Te Puna and Ōmokoroa)

Route protection of:

- new 7km four lane corridor
- new 7km separated shared path.

Next steps

Now: Stage One design and construction preparatory activities, including geotechnical investigations.

Now: Stage Two route protection.

Late 2021: Stage One construction start, subject to property negotiations.

2026: Stage One construction complete.

Cost estimate

Stage One has been allocated \$655m. Costs will continue to be refined.

