



Ngauranga to Aotea Quay upgrade

Putting the smarts into Wellington's urban motorway

PROJECT UPDATE NO. 1

JANUARY 2015



THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF ROADS IS COMING TO WELLINGTON

Like many things we use in our lives, roads are getting smarter. And in a New Zealand first, modern traffic management in the form of a smart motorway is being constructed right here in Wellington.

It's all part of the NZ Transport Agency's upgrade of the Ngauranga Gorge to Aotea Quay section of Wellington's urban motorway. The project aims to reduce congestion, make journey times more reliable, and improve safety on the busiest section of road in the Wellington region.

Making the motorway flow more smoothly will also benefit people using other roads in the area. This is because the fewer drivers will use these routes to avoid congestion on the highway. Public transport journeys through this area will also improve, with more reliable journey times through this section.

After two months of relatively low-key, off-road preparatory work, the construction team this month moved onto the motorway for what is a 15 month effort to create New Zealand's first ever 'smart motorway'.

SMART MOTORWAYS

Motorways get smart by combining technologies such as sensors, cameras, and speed and lane control signs with active monitoring and management by traffic operators, and smarter drivers.

When all three parts come together, the stop/start nature of congestion is reduced, traffic moves more smoothly and everyone gets where they're going sooner and more safely. Smart, or managed, motorways are used in several other countries, including Britain and the USA.

MAKING THE MOST OF WHAT WE'VE GOT

By making relatively minor changes to what we already have, we can create another northbound lane from the Aotea on-ramp to the State Highway 1/State Highway 2 split. This will increase the capacity of the motorway, helping traffic move more smoothly and get us all where we're going sooner.

We're using every possible innovation to find space for the new lane. For example, a small grass verge just north of the Aotea on-ramp, as well as an unused bridge stub at Kaiwharawhara will be put to use as part of the new lane. Also, replacing the existing gravel-filled median barrier with a narrower and safer concrete extruded barrier will provide an extra 3.5 to 4 metres of valuable road width.

HOW THE UPGRADE WILL AFFECT YOUR TRAVEL



Existing barrier

Replacing the central median barrier is a complex and slow process. It'll take approximately 15 months, from January 2015 to March 2016, to remove and replace 3km of barrier. The team will work on 300-400 metre long sections at a time, starting at the Ngauranga end of the site and moving incrementally towards Aotea Quay. A temporary barrier will be installed on both sides of the existing central median barrier. Slightly narrower lanes (going from 3.5m to 3.2m) will be repainted, using the road shoulder in some areas.

SPEED LIMIT LOWERED

The speed limit will be lowered to approximately 70km/h either side of the work site for the entire work period, including off-peak times. Please take extra care when you're travelling through the work site; think about the safety of the road workers as well as other road users.

We expect the work to increase travel time by around three minutes during peak traffic periods.

Between April and August the motorway will be completely closed for a few hours over some nights (exact dates yet been determined) while the steel gantries which house the electronic signs are removed and re-installed.

Plan ahead and stay informed about traffic conditions. Allow extra time for your trip. Check the website, sign up for updates (see below).

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience while we build your smart motorway.

OTHER CONSTRUCTION ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE:

- Lifting and moving an old bridge at Kaiwharawhara to form part of the new northbound lane.
- Lifting out existing gantries, lengthening them and then replacing them, as well as installing new gantries.
- Widening to three lanes the existing SH2 off-ramp through to the Jarden Mile intersection.
- Building a new on-ramp for emergency services to head south into the city from Jarden Mile intersection.

FAST FACTS

The legal speed limit will be lowered on sections of the motorway for up to 15 months.

Ngauranga to Aotea Quay is the busiest road in the Wellington region carrying over 90,000 vehicles per day.

As well as being part of New Zealand's first section of motorway, (4.8 km between Takapu Road and Johnsonville opened in December 1950), Wellington's smart motorway will be the first in the country. Smart, or managed, motorways are used effectively in the UK and the USA.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

MAIN WORKS	2015												2016			
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Central median barrier	[Orange bar spanning from Jan 2015 to Mar 2016]															
Moving old bridge	[Green bar spanning from Jan 2015 to Aug 2015]															
Gantries	Concrete bases				Steel gantries											
Widening SH2 off-ramp							[Light orange bar spanning from Jun 2015 to Sep 2015]									
Building emergency on-ramp	[Red bar spanning from Feb 2015 to May 2015]															

Smart motorways opens

CONTACT

Email us and/or sign up for our newsletter at ntaq@nzta.govt.nz

Find out more at nzta.govt.nz/smartmotorway

Transport for Wellington tfw.govt.nz

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

Slower today

better tomorrow