



Ngauranga to Aotea Quay upgrade

Putting the smarts into Wellington's urban motorway

PROJECT UPDATE NO.3

JUNE 2015

MILESTONES ACHIEVED ON THE SMART MOTORWAY

Seven months into the project and we're progressing well on several fronts. Commuters will be aware of the continuing work on the central median barrier, where 600 metres of the planned three kilometres of new barrier has now been built. In this update, we cover the moving of an old off-ramp, the newly-opened Smart Motorway Information Site and highlight some upcoming motorway closures.

Neil Walker, the Transport Agency's Acting Highway Manager says "the success of the smart motorway relies on everyone working with the system to keep traffic flowing, so an important part of our project is to inform drivers about how it works. Our interactive Smart Motorway Information Site does this in a unique way. As well as finding out about the motorway's smarts, visitors will watch a video explaining the theory of managing traffic flow to reduce congestion, and then test the theory on an especially-designed, one-of-a-kind, 'rice wheel'.

The site includes exhibits on the wider transport system, eg how it's funded, and the role of the Wellington Transport Operations Centre. Visitors will also use a touch screen computer to check out the smart motorway website and give us their thoughts via some surveys.



The Transport Agency's Smart Motorway Information Site was officially opened by the Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown and Transport Agency regional director Raewyn Bleakley.



Smart Motorway Information Site open now!
Visit the newly-opened Information Site in the Johnsonville Mall, shop 14 (next to Countdown)



Bridge on the move

Building another northbound lane from the Aotea on-ramp to the Ngauranga Interchange is all part of putting the smarts into our motorway.

We're using several innovations to find the space for this extra lane and one of these involves bringing back into service an old off-ramp. The off-ramp was designed to be a motorway exit at Kaiwharawhara when the Thorndon Overbridge was built in the early 1960s, but it was never used. Now the two-span off-ramp bridge (each 30m long and 11m wide) is being pushed sideways to become part of the highway.

To lift and push such a huge structure, we're using a series of hydraulic jacks- each capable of lifting 100 tonnes. The jacks are computer-controlled and synchronised to within a 1mm tolerance so each span is lifted evenly and equally.

The off-ramp has already been lifted from its old foundations and is currently being held on temporary supports while new foundations are built. Thousands of steel bars have been drilled into the sides of the off-ramp and into the main Thorndon Overbridge structure. When the off-ramp has been pushed to its new position, concrete will be poured into the remaining gap before the final road surface is laid on top.

Motorway closures

We're planning a series of full and partial overnight motorway closures, likely to take place during July and August. The most significant closure will see all northbound lanes between Thorndon and Ngauranga closed overnight to reduce vibration on the Thorndon Overbridge while the concrete, which will connect the off-ramp bridge to the main structure, sets. Parts of the motorway will also be closed while cranes lift out the old overhead gantries (the structures which house the electronic signs) and lift in new ones. Closure dates are still to be confirmed but will be advertised in advance, and detours will be in place.

The Ngauranga Gorge to Aotea Quay upgrade will reduce congestion, make journey times more predictable, and improve safety on the region's busiest road. It'll result in New Zealand's first ever 'smart motorway' which will be operational in early 2016.

Slower today

between Ngauranga Gorge and Aotea Quay

Better tomorrow

because we're building NZ's first Smart Motorway



CONTACT

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

Find out more at nzta.govt.nz/smartmotorway

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