



Ngauranga to Aotea Quay upgrade

Putting the smarts into Wellington's urban motorway

PROJECT UPDATE NO. 6

MARCH/APRIL 2016



ON THE HOME STRETCH

We're getting close to opening New Zealand's first smart motorway right here in Wellington. After 16 months of on-road construction and behind-the-scenes system development, the whole project will soon come together to improve journeys on our region's busiest section of motorway.

PHASING IN THE SMARTS

The smart motorway will be phased-in from its launch in late May. The first phase involves opening the fourth northbound lane between the Aotea on-ramp and Ngauranga and operators using fixed speed setting operating plans. Neil Walker, Wellington highways manager says the first few months of the smart motorway will be a learning time for all.

'We expect to see gradual improvements in travel times and safety benefits as drivers get used to the system and as the system gathers more real-time data from the smart motorway. It could take a while for drivers to get used to seeing the speed limit change more frequently than they're used to and to being slowed down before a queue is obvious. But this is the key to

being a smart driver and we're confident that if people take this on board, then everyone will reap the benefits.

'Once the impact on the network is factored into the system, it'll be updated and fully automated by the end of the year,' says Mr Walker.

The smart motorway will operate between Petone, Johnsonville and the Terrace Tunnel. It'll pace traffic by altering the speed limit to smooth the flow. This will result in safer and more predictable travel times during peak times. It'll also free up nearby roads for better public transport trips and an improved walking and cycling environment.

VIDEOS AND ANIMATIONS EXPLAIN HOW THE SMART MOTORWAY WORKS

Visit our website nzta.govt.nz/smartmotorway to see animations which explain how the smart motorway, and parts of it, work.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

State Highway 2 off-ramp

We're widening the State Highway 2 off-ramp to increase stacking space for queuing vehicles. Look out for some overnight closures towards the end of April while it's resealed.

Central median barrier

The old central barrier has now been completely removed and the last of the new barrier is being laid during the first half of April.

Resealing

Resealing of the northbound lanes between Aotea on-ramp and Ngauranga continues.

We're doing a thorough rebuild of the lanes in this direction, which involves removing layers of old paving, putting down the under-surface (or foundation layers) in sections, and then from early April, laying the final surfacing material on the top. Traffic will run on a temporary surface for a few weeks while the work progresses.

The final road surface is a smart new road product called EMOGPA, or epoxy modified open grade porous asphalt. EMOGPA reduces road noise and water spray, and is expected to last up to 30 years - that's four to five times longer than a standard road surface. The northbound lanes will be completed at the end of May.

Southbound resealing between Ngauranga and Thorndon overbridge starts at the beginning of April and is expected to take four weeks.

In order to minimise disruption to road users, the resealing works are carried out overnights Sundays to Thursdays.



CONTACT

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

Find out more at nzta.govt.nz/smartmotorway

Visit the smart information site in the **Johnsonville Mall**

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