

Preliminary works on track

The Baypark to Bayfair link upgrade will be built in two stages, and work is well underway on stage one.

Stage one - enabling works

In October last year the enabling works started. This involves moving the railway line, installing a noise wall along the rail boundary behind the Owens Place retail park, relocating services (gas, power, watermain and sewer), moving houses and constructing retaining walls. New rail crossing points will also be installed on Matapihi Road and State Highway 29A. This work will take place in August. Some traffic may be diverted during the work. More details will be made available closer to the time.

Stage one is due to be finished in December and stage two, construction of the Baypark to Bayfair link upgrade, is expected to start early 2017.



Watermain relocation



Sewer protection



Railway line earthworks



Stage one - moving the railway line

Stage two - who's constructing the new Baypark to Bayfair link upgrade?

In April registrations of interest were sought from Design and Construct teams looking to participate in the tender phase of the Baypark to Bayfair project. The tender phase will begin in July and the contract is likely to be awarded December 2016. Construction is expected to take three years.

Project objectives

- Improve the reliability of journey times and reduce congestion for all road users
- Improve safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians
- Improve the freight route to the Port of Tauranga
- Separate the local and state highway traffic
- Improve access for public transport and tourism

A look ahead

Stage one - enabling works

- June** Rail track installation begins
- December** Stage one completed

Stage two - main works

- July - November** Main contract tender process
- November** Purchase remaining properties
- December** Contract award
- March - April 2017** Stage two physical works start

Contact details



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Railway relocation: noise wall

A 210 metre long noise wall, made up of 70 concrete panels, has been installed along the rail boundary behind the Owens Place retail park.

There are two distinctive patterns on the concrete panels; one is a triangle and the other is circular. There are also three nine-metre sections of the wall that will be left blank, with no design, where a team of local artists will complete the work.

Panel design and proposed artwork

The tangata whenua advisory group have been partnered with and are behind the designs on this noise wall. It is being used as an opportunity to tell a story about the history in the area.

The triangle niho taniwha pattern is to portray the challenges and dangers we come up against along the paths in our own lives.

The circular āwhiowhio pattern references the people who surround us and help us through. The pattern starts with us at the centre, surrounded by family.

To complete the noise wall, a team of local artists has been commissioned to design and paint the three blank sections. Stu MacDonald and Owen Dippie were selected by the tangata whenua advisory group and are expected to complete the designs on the three panels over the next few months.

Installation of the noise wall was completed in May.

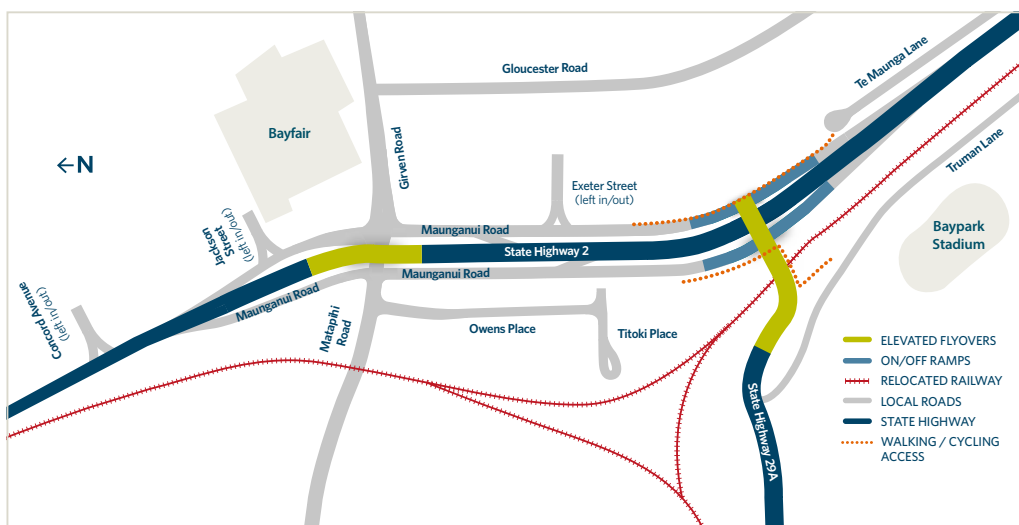


The two noise wall panel designs



Installing the 70 concrete panels along the new railway corridor

Proposed Baypark to Bayfair link upgrade



Uncovering the past



Stone adze found, estimated from the 1600's

Recently an archaeological discovery was made during the enabling works earthworks.

Following the discovery the project archaeologist and his team uncovered further items that included shell middens, a polished stone adze (estimated to be from the 1600's), three stone sinkers used for fishing purposes and a number of obsidian pieces, all of which appear to have been sourced from Mayor Island (Tuhua).

The artefacts and features imply that the area was used for cooking and processing, while a small structure or windbreak was also likely to have been present.

Project Manager Greig Stephen says the project team and tangata whenua advisory group have been working in partnership and protocols are in place if koiwi (human bones) or taonga (an object that relates to Maori culture, history or society) are found.

The items found are still being studied and have since been recorded in accordance with Heritage NZ conditions.



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