

Baypark to Bayfair Link

Project update

20 December 2023



3 tupuna wāhine standing tall at the SH29A roundabout

Tupuna wāhine welcoming people to Tauranga

"A karanga is steeped in tikanga and symbolises the mana wāhine, the power of women within the marae. It is a spiritual call that has been heard through generations of whānau across the country."

Just in time for the holiday season, people of Tauranga and visitors to the city will be welcomed by 3 new striking pou whenua, representing 3 of the city's tupuna wāhine/female ancestors.

The new gateway to Tauranga was blessed by local hapū Ngāi Tukairangi, Ngāti Tapu and Ngā Pōtiki and unveiled by the rising sun, welcoming them into their final place, the new State Highway 29A roundabout.

The pou whenua represent wāhine Te-Aho-o-te-Rangi of Ngāi Tukairangi, Kahumoeangi of Ngāti Tapu and Kiritāwhiti of Ngā Pōtiki and were designed as part of the Baypark to Bayfair Link project. They were created by local artists Linda Munn, Stu McDonald and Maraea Timutimu, supported by steel fabricators Longveld and carved by local kaiwhakairo/carvers led by Stu McDonald.

[Cultural significance and the meaning of each pou whenua](#)

We couldn't do it without you!

The Bay Link project team would like to thank you for your ongoing patience throughout the year. We would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and remind you to take care on the roads, whether you're travelling near or far.

Our Bay Link crews are making every effort to get the final works done efficiently, and in the safest way possible. In addition, maintenance season is in full swing, making the most of the longer and drier days. This will mean worksites will continue to pop up across the Bay of Plenty region.

Projects like Bay Link and our maintenance work are important to ensure the state highway network continues to be safe and accessible at all times. We want you to get to your friends and whānau safely. When you're out on the roads this summer, drive to the speed limit, don't drink and drive, make sure you're rested, and plan ahead.

By Christmas our crews will have deserved a well-earned break and when you arrive at a worksite, remember the team is working for you, making your journeys safer and more enjoyable. Give them a toot or a wave, it will make their day.



Crews preparing for nightworks

On the road to completion

Our crews on the ground are working extremely hard to prepare the road and apply as much of the final surface as possible ahead of the Christmas shutdown this Friday 22 December 2023. Some finishing work will push into early 2024 such as completing the final road surfacing, installing median barriers, signage, handrails and cultural artworks. Most of these works will have a minor impact on the travelling public, requiring overnight road and lane closures, as well as the temporary closure of some of the walking and cycling connections.

What to expect in the new year:

- Overnight road and lane closures on all roads as part of the Bay Link project to allow for preparation and application of final surfacing. Road closures and detours will be in place between 7pm and 6am every night across the project site and vary night to night, depending on site requirements and progress.
- SH2 Hewletts Road flyover overnight closure to safely install gantry signage on SH2 between Spur Avenue and Bayfair Shopping Centre's Countdown entrance.
- SH29A, between SH2/SH29A Te Maunga interchange and Maungatapu roundabout, overnight closures for the application of final surfacing.
- SH2 northbound overnight closure from Sandhurst interchange to SH2/SH29A Te Maunga interchange to safely install gantry signage on Tauranga Eastern Link.
- Access to and from Matapihi and Owens Place will be constrained overnight. This will include entry/exit via a new temporary access point connecting Titoki Place with Maunganui Road.
- Access to Baypark, Bayfair Shopping Centre and HomeZone will be available during trading hours, but detours may be required between 7pm (or later) and 6am.

Between midday on Friday 22 December 2023 and 8 January 2024 when our crews get back on site, some reduced temporary traffic management will remain in place across the Bay Link site.

Temporary speed restrictions will also remain throughout the site during this time. The Bay Link contact number 0508 222 4636 remains operational over the Christmas/ New Year period.

[Sign up for updates and find all road closures and details](#)



Final surfacing will continue in the new year across the Bay Link site

Final surfacing – the science behind a smooth journey

Applying the final surface layer is like icing a cake, and it's crucial to follow a sequence of steps to ensure its smooth application.

At Bay Link, road surfacing consists of 5 steps and 3 layers. With the removal of existing asphalt, testing of subgrade, application of a thick layer of sub-base and structural asphalt complete, only the icing of the cake is remaining: the final surface.

Preparation of the final surface involves scraping off a layer of the road surface in advance, so we can move through quicker when applying the final layer of asphalt. Surfacing is affected by wet weather, so we are preparing the road ahead of scheduled surfacing to buy us enough time in case bad weather hits. Which means that some sections of road appear partially finished, and people will experience variations in road levels for a period of time. Once the surface is prepared, a final 40mm layer of surfacing asphalt will be applied across the site followed by road marking and the installation of central median barriers on SH2.



New lane configuration at SH2/SH29A Te Maunga interchange

New permanent lane configuration to improve traffic flow towards SH29A

If you're travelling through SH2/29A Te Maunga interchange regularly keep your eyes peeled for the new lane configuration which will improve traffic flows for people travelling towards SH29A Maungatapu, Welcome Bay and Tauriko.

The lanes will change this week to their permanent layout, allowing both lanes to turn right, which will ease traffic flow towards SH29A especially at peak travel time.

This means: the right lane will be a right turn only (not straight) towards SH29A, and the left lane to proceed straight onto SH2/TEL and right turn towards SH29A.

The second lane heading towards the SH29A roundabout will be made available at the same time.

This change is scheduled to be in place from early morning on Thursday 21 December.

Please drive carefully through the interchange, and check the new signage and line marking.



The new walking and cycling ramp connecting Te Maunga interchange and Truman Lane

Change it up and walk or cycle between Baypark and Bayfair

The new Truman Lane walking and cycling ramp is scheduled to open just before Christmas in a temporary configuration to make it easier for people to walk or cycle between Baypark and Bayfair. The ramp will remain under temporary traffic management and the stairs will remain closed, with the installation of handrails and artworks resuming in the new year to complete this area.

With a summer of events right around the corner, it will make it safer and easier to walk and cycle to and from Baypark.

[New walking and cycling connections built as part of the project](#)



Bayfair underpass ramp on the Golf 360 side

Bayfair underpass to open temporarily

Between 22 December and early January, the Bayfair underpass will reopen for people walking and cycling between Matapihi/Owens Place and the Bayfair/Arataki area.

Finishing works will resume in January, which will require a temporary closure of the underpass.



Bayfair roundabout in 2017 and 2023

A signalised roundabout is the safer roundabout for Bayfair

One of the key outcomes of the Bay Link project is making it safer for everyone who travels through the area – driving, walking or cycling, and the project has been designed to improve traffic flow and to accommodate an increasing number of people walking and cycling through the area.

Signalised roundabouts are relatively new in Aotearoa New Zealand and a significant amount of research and an independent safety audit was undertaken to ensure that what has been implemented at this busy intersection keeps people travelling through this area safe.

A conventional signalised intersection incorporates cross movements and many conflict points which can lead to an increase in crash risk and crash severity, including additional risks to vulnerable road users. Signalised roundabouts are the safer option due to reduced speed and less severe impact angles, eg typically crash types are rear end crashes as opposed to side impact crashes.

While signalised roundabouts aren't that common in Aotearoa New Zealand, for people driving, using the roundabout is just like any signalised intersection where a prepared driver ensures they are in the correct lane and then follows the signals through red to green light phasing. Introducing signals at the roundabout provides the ability to better balance and coordinate all road users in this location. This includes better traffic flows for drivers approaching from any direction and allows people to cross at ground level, which provides an additional and accessible walking and cycling connection between Matapihi and Arataki.

The new roundabout recognises that safety of all road users is paramount. We're seeing positive improvements to traffic flow with the new flyover combined with the new signalised roundabout. It has also changed how the local roads operate in the Bayfair area by separating local from state highway traffic, and provides an improved walking and cycling connection between Matapihi and Arataki.

Fortune favours those who plan



Summer road maintenance programme underway

Our crews are out across the region making improvements on the roads, with our biggest roadworks programme to date. The next months will see a flurry of chipsealing and asphalt surfacing taking place across the wider Waikato and Bay of Plenty region, alongside the larger infrastructure projects that continue as well.

This all contributes to improving the condition of the state highway network, resulting in smoother journeys for all.

Work has been planned to minimise delays, but given the volume of work, there are few sections of the network where people won't experience some sort of disruption. It's important during the summer months to factor in extra time to your journey, to ensure you arrive on time to your destination.

The [Waka Kotahi Journey Planner](#) is the best place for information on the status of the state highway network. With live updates on worksites and other road hazards, Journey Planner can help road users plot the best route to their destination.

Drive safely on busy roads this summer.



Plan ahead to minimise delays these summer holidays

Waka Kotahi is expecting high volumes of traffic on state highways and local roads across the Bay of Plenty throughout the Christmas/New Year period.

While most road works stop prior to busy holiday travel periods, people should still allow extra time if travelling through the project site where temporary traffic management, including temporary speed limits, will remain in place over the Christmas/New Year period.

In the wider Bay of Plenty, drivers should be prepared for heavy traffic volumes over the Kaimai Range, on SH2 between Paeroa and Waihi, and also between Katikati and Tauranga.

The [Waka Kotahi Holiday Journey Planner](#) shows predicted traffic flow across popular journeys over the Christmas and New Year's holiday based on previous years' travel patterns.

Congestion and delays are inevitable in peak times, however if everyone leaves plenty of time for their journey, drives to the conditions and plans ahead before leaving home, frustrations can be eased and everyone can concentrate on arriving safely at their destination.

Please take extra care when travelling during the holiday period. Consider travelling outside of peak times when traffic is lighter and take regular breaks.

Summer events are back in the Bay

Major events are returning to the Bay of Plenty with Tauranga hosting a range across different parts of the city. Mount Maunganui is one of the busy destinations over the summer months and many people travel through the Bay Link site to get to and from events.

As such, people travelling through the area should be prepared for an increase in traffic, particularly when events are on. Where possible, take alternative routes to avoid potential delays. If you do need to drive in this area, please be aware of people walking and follow the traffic management signage.

Juicy Fest – Sunday 7 January

Juicy Fest 2024, which takes place at Mercury Arena on Sunday 7 January 2024 is expected to attract a crowd of between 6000 to 8000 festival goers. Gates open at 12.30pm with the event finishing at 10pm. A public drop-off point will be available between Mangatawa Link Road and Tāreha Lane, event buses will be available, running from Gordon Spratt Reserve, Blake Park and Tauranga City.

Road users will see the following changes to road access:

- Truman Lane will be closed between SH29A roundabout and Tip Lane, from 11am Sunday 7 January to 1am Monday 8 January. Entry and exit from Truman Lane to SH29A will be closed. Access to Te Maunga transfer station will be maintained.

For more information about Juicy Fest visit the event website at: juicyfest.co

Calley Homes Tauranga Half – Saturday 20 January

The Calley Homes Tauranga Half celebrates 35 years next year, with the event taking place on Saturday 20 January 2024 – this forms part of the Mount Festival of Multisport. The cycle leg of the triathlon travels along the Tauranga Eastern Link Toll Road (TELTR), with the eastbound lane between Pāpāmoa and Paengaroa (towards Whakatāne / Rotorua) closed between 6am and 1pm on Saturday 20 January. The alternative route for motorists during this time is via Te Puke Highway.

For safety reasons, the Paengaroa roundabout will be closed to spectators and traffic management will be in place. The best place to watch the event is along Marine Parade and Oceanbeach Road, Mount Maunganui.

Bay Dreams is also returning to Tauranga this year, taking place at Wharepai Domain in central Tauranga on Thursday 3 January 2024 from 12pm.



Safer Hewletts Road railway crossing available

It is now safer for pedestrians and cyclists to use the Hewletts Road railway pedestrian level crossing, following the completion of safety improvements at the busy intersection.

Improvements include the installation of a paved and fenced pedestrian maze and additional fencing to prevent crossing at other areas along the track. The pedestrian maze is a specially designed walkway to slow people down before they walk over the tracks, prompting them to look up and down the track before crossing.

[New railway crossing](#)

Connecting Mount Maunganui

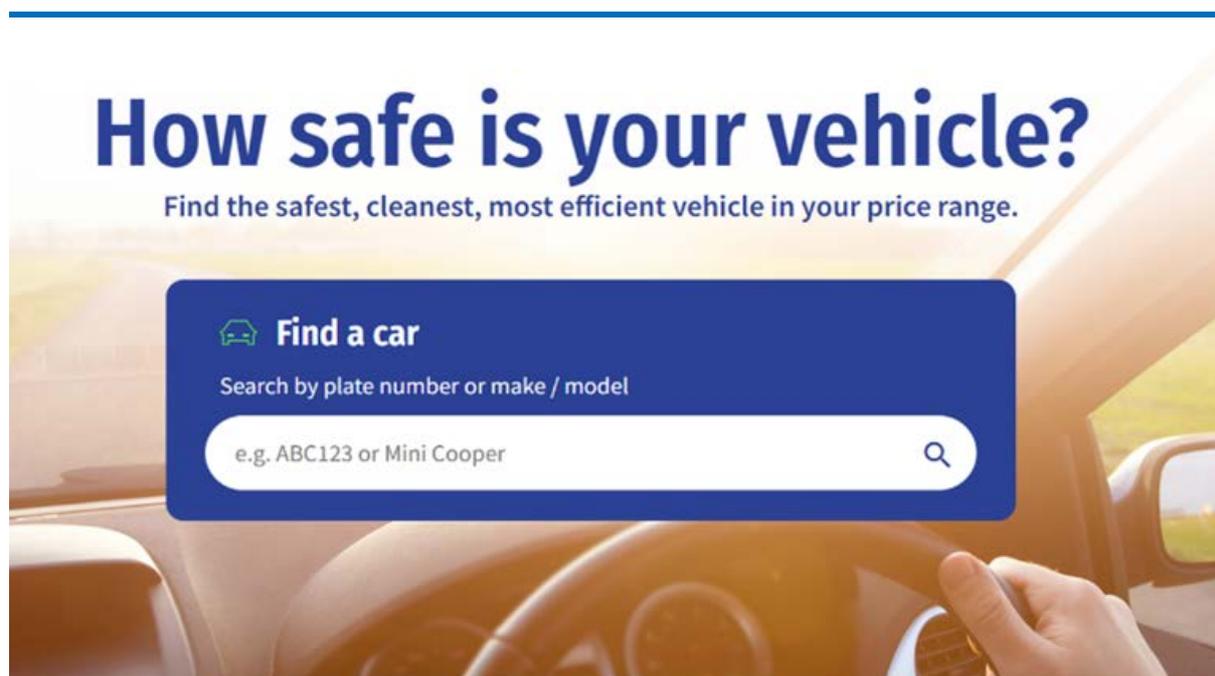
NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, Tauranga City Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Ngāi Tukairangi and Ngāti Kuku are working together to improve safety and create better transport connections across Mount Maunganui.

Benefits of the project include:

- Improving travel time reliability for the increasing numbers of people and goods moving through the area.
- Improving road safety for everyone.
- Increasing the attractiveness and availability of public transport and active travel options (walking, cycling etc) in the area, and between the two sides of the harbour.
- Providing accessibility between Mount Maunganui, the eastern side of the harbour and Tauranga.
- Maintaining freight and commercial vehicle accessibility, particularly during off-peak times.
- Reducing transport related emissions and environmental effects.

To find out more, read all about the Connecting Mount Maunganui project in their [first update](#).

[Sign up to receive project updates](#) and please feel free to forward to your networks who may also be interested.



Check your vehicle before heading off for summer

New safety ratings for most cars and other light vehicles in Aotearoa New Zealand are now live on the Rightcar website, run by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi to help Kiwis find safe, clean and efficient cars.

The updated (2023) safety ratings, apply to the vast majority of used cars, SUVs, utes and other light vehicles on our roads, and provide the best indication of how much protection a vehicle provides in a crash.

Around 900,000 used light vehicles' safety ratings have changed compared to their 2022 star-safety ratings, based on the latest independent analysis of real-world crash data from Aotearoa and Australia.

So, make sure you visit [Rightcar](#) to check the latest safety rating of vehicles you own or are interested in – and encourage your loved ones to do the same.

Remember, you're twice as safe in a 5-star safety rated car than you are in a 1-star safety rated car.

More information

For more information on the Baypark to Bayfair Link upgrade project, contact us at baylink@nzta.govt.nz

Visit our website www.nzta.govt.nz/baylink



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