

Welcome to the Construction Update for the Baypark to Bayfair Link (Bay Link) project.

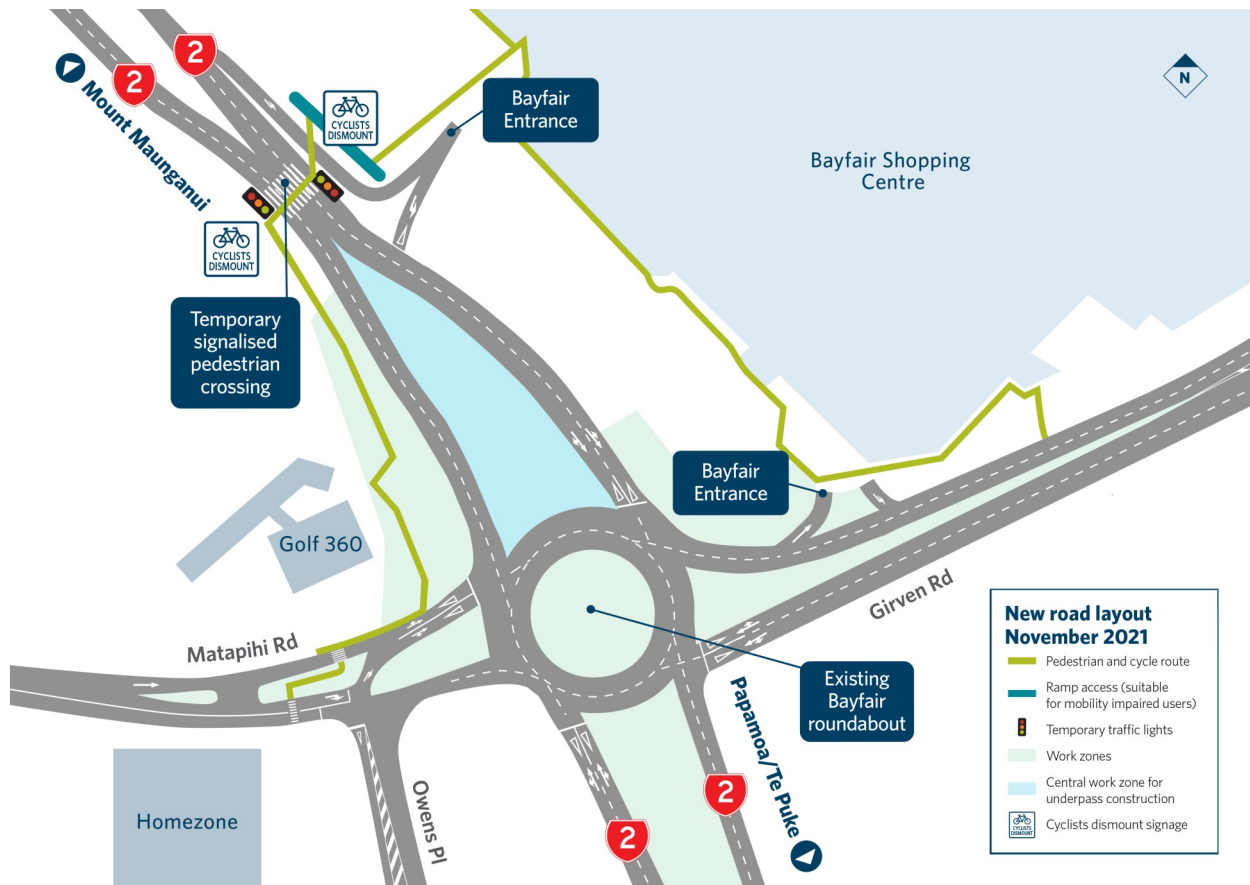
CPB Contractors is carrying out the design and construction for Bay Link. The Construction Update provides an overview of what's happened and what's coming up for the project.

SH2 Traffic Switch for Central Underpass Construction

Motorists will soon be driving over sections of the new Bayfair underpass with a major traffic switch near the Bayfair roundabout scheduled next month as part of the Bay Link project.

The switch will primarily impact the road layout on State Highway 2/Maunganui Road just north of the Bayfair roundabout, where traffic in both directions currently travels on a central section with work zones on both verges.

November's traffic switch moves the two lanes of SH2 headed for Tauranga or Mount Maunganui closer to Golf 360 and the Papamoa-bound lanes towards Bayfair Shopping Centre, enabling the creation of a work zone in the middle of SH2. As a result of the shift, SH2 traffic (in both directions) will be moved over the top of the underpass' two outer finished box sections, which have been under construction since May.



The new central work zone will enable construction to proceed on the underpass' middle section (an open-air trench), two further piers for the four-span Bayfair flyover and the flyover's northern embankment.

A major traffic switch of this kind typically takes up to two weeks to complete. While the dates of the switch will be advertised closer to the time, there will be a series of night shifts over two weeks in November to complete the necessary preparation, the switch and the required follow up work. This includes completing the new pavement, barrier realignment, new line marking and the removal of redundant line marking.

Single lane closures will be necessary during the night shifts, with two lanes of traffic in each direction maintained at all other times while the switch is completed.

Road users are encouraged to drive with extra care through the Bay Link site during and after the switch as they adjust to the new road layout. Reduce your speed and follow the directions provided on traffic management signage. A 30km/h temporary speed restriction is in place around the Bayfair roundabout for the duration of the Bay Link project.

The Bay Link team would like to thank Bayfair Shopping Centre, Golf 360 and motorists for their patience while this work is carried out.

The Bayfair flyover and the underpass are expected to open to the public upon completion of the project.

Recent changes on Bay Link

Work on the project has largely been concentrated at the Bayfair end, while the bridges of the new southern interchange at Te Maunga have progressed through mandated settlement periods (a process which takes approximately two to three months).

Motorists and pedestrians will have noticed changes above and below ground, as they pass through the area near the Bayfair roundabout.

Bayfair end:

- The outer sections of the underpass are nearing completion, including the boxes on both the Matapihi and Bayfair verges and the approach entrance ways and ramps.
- Pavement construction is underway along the Bayfair verge and along part of Girven Road (pictured).
- The southern ramp of the Bayfair flyover, on the Te Maunga side of Bayfair roundabout, has progressed. This ramp includes three of the project's 16 permanent retaining walls and will carry SH2 traffic over the Bayfair roundabout.



Te Maunga end:

- The bridge over the East Coast Main Trunk (ECMT) railway line has achieved the earth settlement required, enabling the final stage of the bridge deck on the western abutment to be poured.
- Additional drainage has been installed along the length of the interchange ramp that runs between SH2 and the back of Eversham Road.

Looking ahead

- Asphalt will be laid over the top of the outer underpass sections (on the Matapihi side near Golf 360 and on Bayfair side, near the Shopping Centre) prior to the traffic switch in November. Following the switch, construction on the underpass will move to the central open-air trench.
- Approximately 85 fascia panels (precast concrete panels that will be manufactured in Tauriko and which provide the exterior finish for retaining walls) will be fitted to the side of the interchange ramp that backs onto Eversham Road and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- The southern ramp of the Bayfair flyover (between Bayfair roundabout and Te Maunga) will continue to increase in height as construction progresses on the retaining walls and embankment (as pictured). Construction will begin on the southern abutment.
- Work will recommence in the area between the ECMT railway bridge and the SH2 bridge at the project's Te Maunga end. This will include tying steel on the railway bridge's eastern abutment before the last of the deck is poured.

