

## Construction underway

Construction of the Maungatapu underpass started in September after Transport Minister Hon Simon Bridges turned the first sod at the beginning of the month.

Two public information sessions were also held to give the community an opportunity to find out more about the project.

The Transport Agency's senior project manager John McCarthy says there has been a lot of interest from the community.

"It was great to see around 500 people attend the information sessions. We're aware that this is a complex project on a busy stretch of road and will involve extensive traffic management."

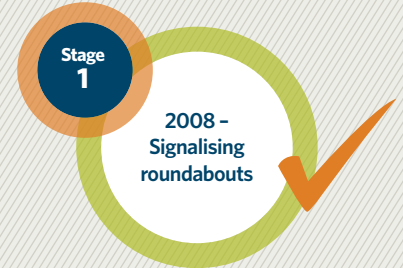
The Transport Agency and Fulton Hogan are focussed on doing everything to minimise disruption to traffic. Because of this, works affecting traffic are being carried out between 9am and 4pm, outside of peak commuting times.

"The digital animation gives an overview of the project showing detailed changes to the road layout which will take place during the next three years. And if you missed the info sessions you can find all of the content under 'Publications' on the website," says Mr McCarthy.



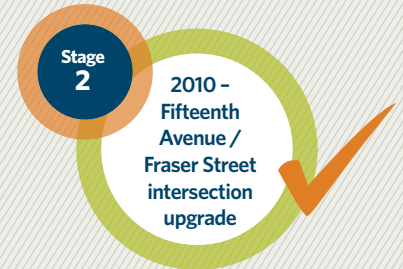
Hon Simon Bridges Minister of Transport turning the first sod

## The stages of the Hairini Link project



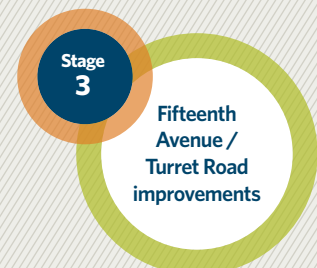
The first part of the project was to signalise the Maungatapu and Hairini roundabouts.

**This was completed in December 2008.**

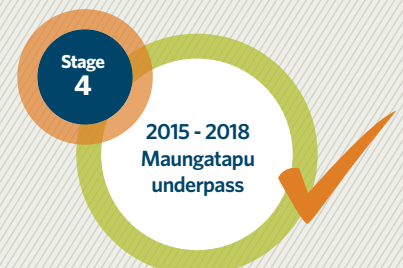


The second stage was improving pedestrian and cyclist safety and intersection traffic flows.

**The upgrade was completed in March 2011 and made improvements on the route.**



In the short to medium term solutions such as public transport services will be assessed which will help to alleviate congestion. Traffic modelling indicates that the four-laning is a long-term solution.



The Maungatapu underpass was identified as the best solution to relieve traffic congestion, improve safety and separate local and state highway traffic.

## What has happened so far?

- Removal of properties and site clearance
- Vegetation cleared from the Maungatapu roundabout
- New temporary access to Hammond Street has opened. Hammond Street now links to State Highway 29A and is a left-turn only
- Works to build the temporary road on the northern side of the Maungatapu roundabout

## Environment a key focus

A key focus for the project is to minimise the environmental impacts during construction, giving careful consideration to the surrounding wetlands and waterways, neighbouring cultural and residential areas, and the wider community.

The wetland fishing programme has been underway since mid-May 2015 with the aim to relocate and preserve native fish found within the project site. In total 59 shortfin eels, 42 banded kokopu (fish) and three giant kokopu were relocated into a similar nearby habitat.

Part of this project also included building the Scouts and Guides a new hall at Isla Park, which is now complete, as well as other planned work such as pedestrian walkway access, wetland enhancement and a new cycleway link along SH29A.

## About the project

**Location:** SH29A Maungatapu / Hairini, Tauranga

**Contract start date:** July 2015

**Estimated time to complete:** 3 years (mid-2018)

**Contract type:** Design and Construct

**Contractor:** Fulton Hogan, Tonkin and Taylor (T&T), Bloxam, Burnett and Olliver (BBO)

## The overall project benefits

Improves the safety and movement of local traffic on key urban roads, separating State Highway 29A from local traffic.

Provides a long term benefit in solving congestion at the Hairini and Maungatapu roundabouts.

Safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

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