

Potential Levin Bypass

We previously talked about proposed improvements through Levin and the connection to SH57 via Queen Street. One of the key proposals we discussed was the suggestion of a Levin Bypass for heavy vehicles. You told us you would like us to investigate this bypass further and since then we have developed and assessed some options.

Although we are yet to reach any conclusions, we have made good progress and want to share some of the results of our investigations with you.

Our proposals for the SH1/SH57 connection means that the southern part of a potential future bypass connecting SH1 with an eastern bypass of Levin, using SH57, will be formed already. It would be possible to link SH57 back to SH1 to the north of Levin on a new road, forming a heavy vehicle bypass.

Issues to consider

The aim of a bypass is to draw heavy vehicles away from the main street of Levin, while still keeping most traffic on the current route. In order to create a bypass that is attractive to heavy vehicles and that would be used, the bypass would need to be straight, wide and with a higher quality pavement to withstand the weight of vehicles using it. However, this would also make it attractive to other vehicles, and would require further work to ensure that the Levin centre remains an attractive destination.

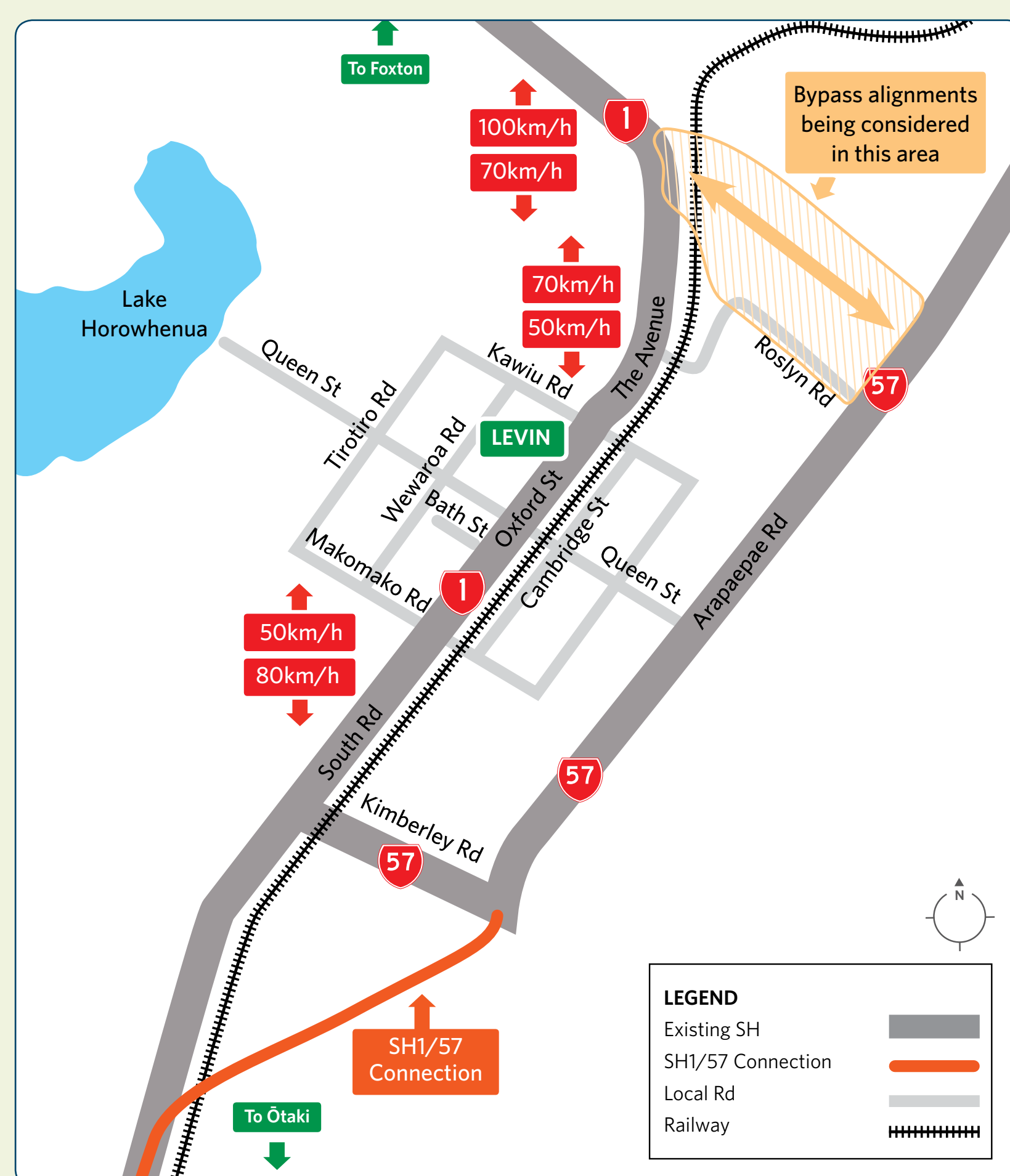
Another issue is the cost and impact of creating a bypass. Of the options we have considered, the lowest cost option was just over \$20 million. The best, but most expensive, was nearly \$35 million. Each option would require us to buy property to construct a new road.

Lastly, by creating a bypass, the distance heavy vehicles would need to travel through Levin would become longer. This may mean it might not be as attractive to truckies who want to travel the shortest distance possible.

Next steps

We are still working on the options and will confirm the outcomes of our Levin Bypass investigations in 2014.

What information do you want us to know about a potential Levin Bypass before we make a decision?



A high number of vehicles travel through Levin, including heavy vehicles.



The SH57/ Arapaepe Road intersection is seen as problematic from a safety and efficiency perspective.