



Wellington Northern corridor

Ōtaki to North of Levin section

Waitarere Beach Road Curves

This 2.3km section of SH1 is commonly referred to as the Waitarere Beach Road Curves. It's a two-lane highway not separated by any barriers, stretching from Clay Road in the south to north of Waitarere Beach Road.

There are three sharp bends in the road creating a double S bend (when viewed from above) and fluctuating speeds. The area is surrounded by rural houses and some culturally significant features, including two marae, Urupa, Whare Rongopai.

Why do we need to improve this section of SH1?

A number of serious crashes have been reported in recent years involving vehicles crossing the centreline and running off the road.

While the bends or curves in the road were improved before the mid-1970s, and further improvements made in more recent years, there have still been 12 crashes, two of them fatal and two serious. Of particular concern are crashes where a vehicle is turning, and head-on crashes because they tend to result in more serious injuries.

The speed limit through this section is 100km/h, however, the three curves in this area reduce speeds to between 80 - 90km/h.

The following issues have been identified as key safety concerns:

- Dangerous curves - the curves between Clay Road and Waitarere Beach Road are below the standard required for a 100 km/h highway
- No median barrier
- Narrow shoulder widths
- A large number of highway connections/accessways.

How do we propose to address these issues?

Two options have been considered to improve safety in this area and include realigning curves, widening the shoulders and protecting roadside hazards. Both will retain the existing intersection layout and form for Waitarere Beach Road and Paeroa Road.

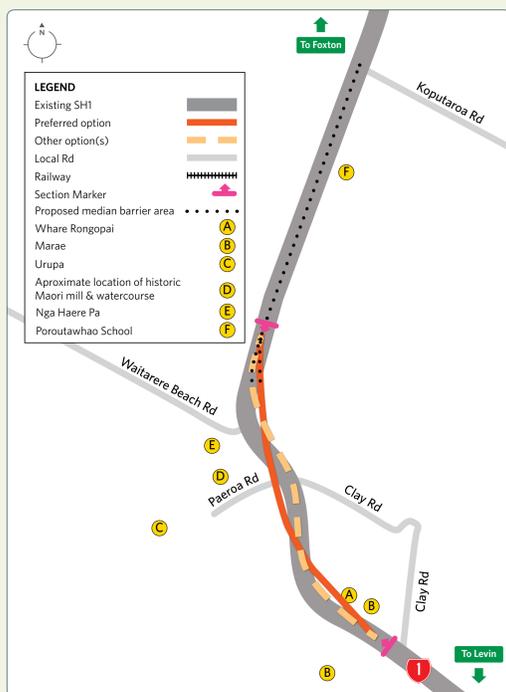
The two proposed options are:

- Improving the existing three curves on the road - giving this route a consistent design speed of 100km/h and closing a number of highway accessways in consultation with landowners, or
- realign the road - close to the current route with only two curves on a slightly different, safer alignment. This may have more of an impact on local residential dwellings.

A number of other options were reviewed but discarded because of the effects they would have on local cultural and historical places of interest.

Our preferred option is to realign the road making this section 330m shorter and creating a new, safer Waitarere Beach Road intersection.

We will also consider installing a section of median barrier with appropriate local road connections in this area to reduce the risk of crashes caused by cars crossing into opposing traffic. This is proposed to extend between Koputaroa Road to just north of Waitarere Beach Road



Other issues to consider:

- Property impacts - we will need to purchase a small number of properties
- Property access - we may need to change how some properties access SH1
- Intersection changes - we will need to consider the social and environmental effects depending on the final layout of the Waitarere Beach Road intersection
- Potential social and environmental effects - realigning the highway takes the road closer to the Whare Rongopai.

Key questions to consider in your feedback

What are your views on our proposals?

What are your thoughts on the road being realigned?

What sort of intersection layout will allow you to stay connected with your community at Waitarere Beach Road?

How do you feel about state highway connection points being spread further apart?

Is there anything else we should consider in this location?



Improving the Waitarere Beach Road connection with the highway will be part of the solution for the Waitarere Beach Road curves section of SH1.



The Waitarere Beach Road intersection as seen when heading north.