



Wellington Northern corridor

Ōtaki to North of Levin section

Manakau to Ohau Bridges

This section of SH1 covers the area roughly from the Manakau Railway Overbridge to just beyond the Ohau River Bridge.

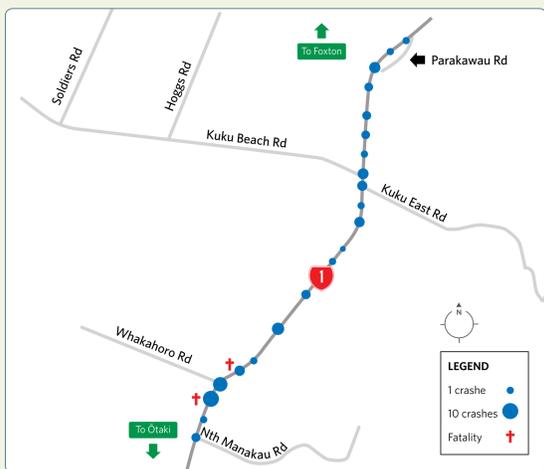
Why do we need to improve this section of SH1?

There are a number of key safety and efficiency issues along this section of SH1 between the Manakau and Ohau Townships. There have been 52 crashes along this length in the five years between July 2007 and June 2012, two were fatalities and three resulted in serious injuries.

There are five existing bridges along this section of SH1, which may need to be either upgraded or replaced in the medium term. There are also a number of historical and cultural landmarks in the area that need to be considered when looking at possible options for improving this section.

Other issues include:

- A number of sharp curves including one over the railway line at Manakau (the scene of a 2007 fatal crash)
- A bridge over Waikawa Stream
- Issues with vehicle speeds, passing lanes, and side roads close to Tukorehe Marae
- How to make improvements without affecting historically and culturally significant landmarks such as marae, the Kuku Dairy Factory Historic Building, Tatum Park and St Stevens Church.



This diagram shows the number of crashes that have occurred along this section of SH1.

How do we propose to address these issues?

A variety of options were originally investigated, with two being considered in more detail. These options are to:

- make various safety and efficiency improvements along the existing SH1 alignment, or
- divert the highway along the western side of the railway line.

Both options would include passing lanes and bridges to cross the Waikawa and Kuku Streams and Ohau River.

We would prefer to divert the highway. This avoids having to build replacement bridges over the railway track, provides a more direct route (which reduces journey times), affects fewer properties, and avoids listed or cultural buildings of significance, which are generally located alongside the existing highway.

This new route can be built to provide four lanes of traffic in future, and would involve constructing passing lanes in a section divided by a wire rope median barrier. Three bridges would be constructed:

- at Waikawa Stream west of the existing bridge
- over Kuku Stream and
- at Ohau River west of the existing bridge.

Other options considered

A variety of options were considered at the initial concept stage, broadly following the principle of upgrading the existing route or providing a new alignment running parallel to the rail line. There was only one feasible option running parallel to the railway line, which is outlined above.

Two other options were considered to improve the existing highway alignment. These included:

- realigning the SH1 curve south of Waikawa Stream or
- creating a new link road to the east of the existing highway from Kuku Stream to SH57.

The option of realigning the SH1 curve south of Waikawa Stream was discounted as it generated less travel time savings and was more expensive when compared to other options.

The new link road north-east of the existing Kuku Stream was also discounted because it requires two river bridges, since the road would split south of the Ohau River, and it would also be necessary to reconstruct both rail overbridges (at Manakau and Ohau).

How changes will affect the community and the way you travel

Our two key options mean that we will need to purchase property. This is required because we either need to be able to provide a wider road space or a completely new section of road. The only way to do this is by purchasing property.

Other issues to consider:

- Property access – we may need to change how some properties access SH1, perhaps providing a new access lane
- Intersection changes – we want to stop right turns in and out of Kuku Beach Road and redirect traffic to safer intersections
- Future of the two existing rail bridges – we will need to consider what happens to the existing bridges assuming the highway is diverted.



Questions to consider in your feedback

- What are your thoughts on our proposals?
- Do you prefer improvements to the existing State Highway or a diverted road?
- How do you feel about state highway connections being spread further apart?
- Is there anything else at this location that we should consider?



Looking south, the Maori Arts and Crafts store on the left, is one of the cultural landmarks in the area that needed to be factored in to our proposals.