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Wellington Northern corridor

Ōtaki to North of Levin section

Ohau to south of Levin – New SH1 link

The proposals outlined below are suggested in addition to the changes indicated for Ohau Township. Depending on which option is preferred, other changes may be required through the township.

The issues

The existing section of SH1 between the Ohau River and Levin includes the key intersection of SH1/SH57 Kimberley Road. A number of safety issues along this constrained part of SH1 have resulted in a high crash history and problems for local travel in Ohau Township.

The area consists of a mix of residential, retail and commercial property with a combination of direct property access and side road access to both state highways. Commercial land uses include agriculture, horticulture and grape cultivation and processing at the local winery.

The SH1/SH57 intersection has been identified as a key, and problematic, intersection from a safety perspective. On SH57, the Kimberley Road intersection with Arapaepae Road is also considered problematic from both a safety and efficiency perspective.

There have been 79 crashes along these sections of state highway in the five year period between July 2007 and June 2012. The most concerning are side-on crashes, which lead to serious injuries and sometimes fatalities, when vehicles are travelling at speeds higher than 50km/h. Five crashes were serious and half of all the crashes happened as a result of drivers losing control or turning against traffic.

How do we propose to address these issues

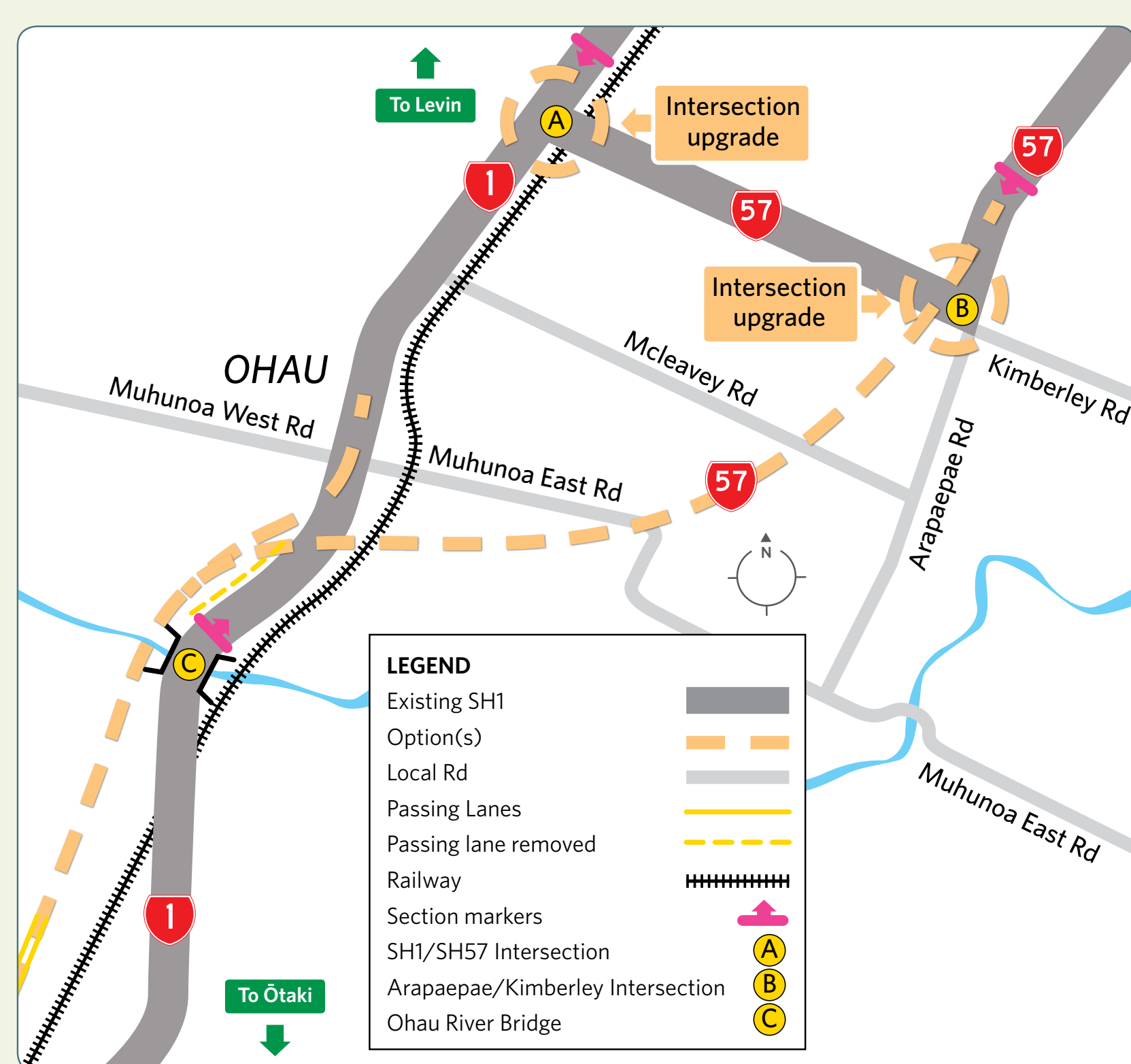
To address the safety and efficiency problems on these sections of state highway, we are considering two main options. These are either:

- Make improvements to the existing SH1/SH57 intersection, such as with an elevated interchange, and improve the Kimberley/Arapaepae Road intersection, or
- Construct a new road to the east of Ohau linking SH1 with the SH57/Arapaepae Road intersection. The alignment for this link is not confirmed, but it is likely it would need to be located north of the Ohau River Bridge, since a link to the south would necessitate building two new river bridges instead of one, and would also mean that our proposal to realign the highway from Manakau to Ohau, west of the rail line, is unlikely to be viable.

Options for the SH1 Link Road

A new road linking SH1 with the SH57/Arapaepae Road would also significantly improve safety as well as provide efficiency benefits. The benefits of this road are:

- Removing a large amount of traffic from Ohau township
- Reducing conflicts at the SH1/57 intersection and improving the SH57/Arapaepae Road intersection (as traffic would be reduced in these two locations)
- It's easier to turn this section into a four-lane road compared with upgrading the key intersections on SH57 as described on this panel, since it would only be necessary to provide four lanes as far north as the SH1/57 intersection.



It is likely that a link road would need to be located north of the Ohau River Bridge. It would also need a new structure, such as an overbridge, being built so traffic could cross from the new Manakau to Ohau Bridges section of SH1 to SH57.

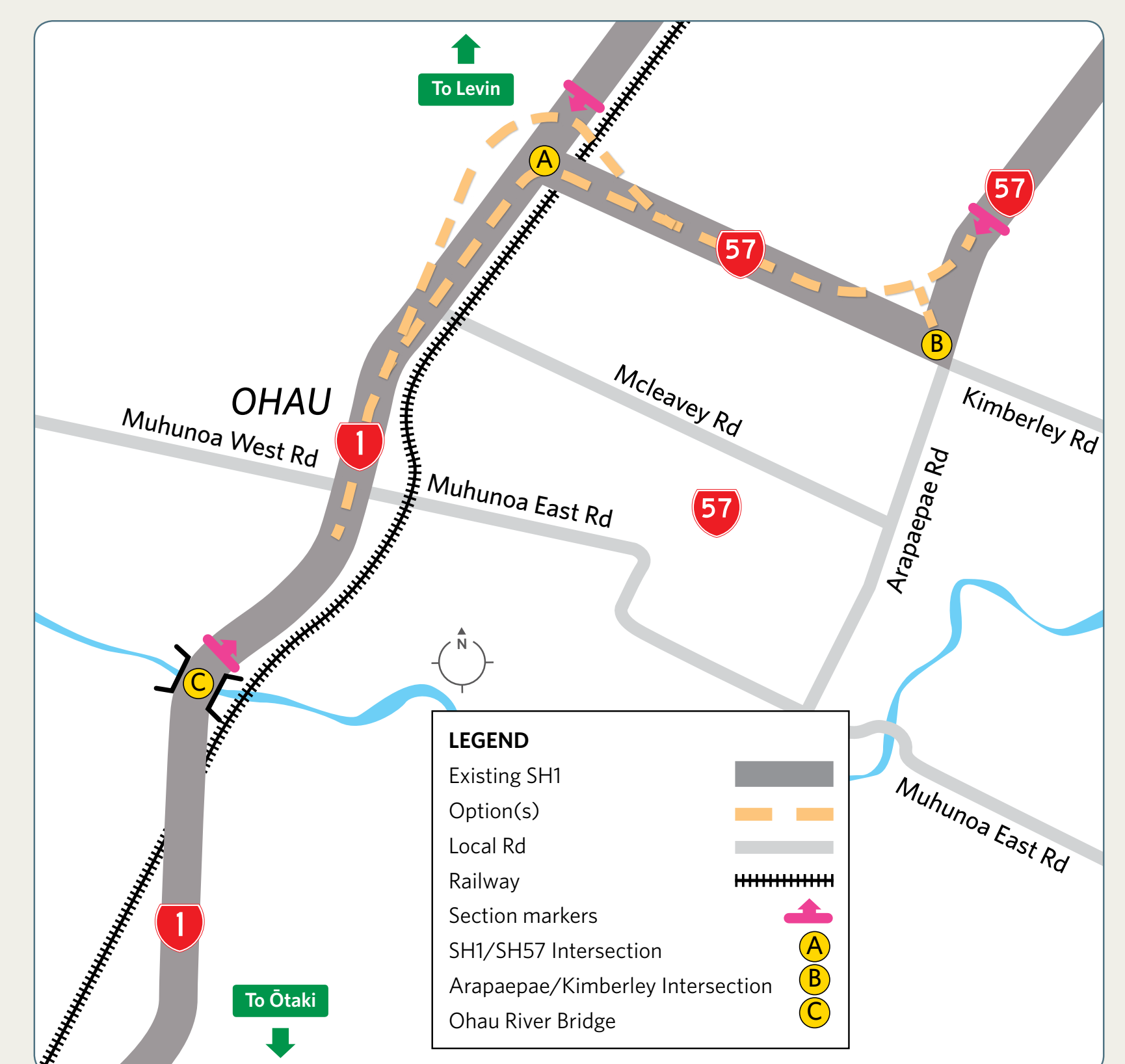
Options for upgrading SH1 and SH57

Upgrading SH1/SH57 and SH57/Arapaepae Road intersections will significantly improve safety for all SH1 users at these intersections.

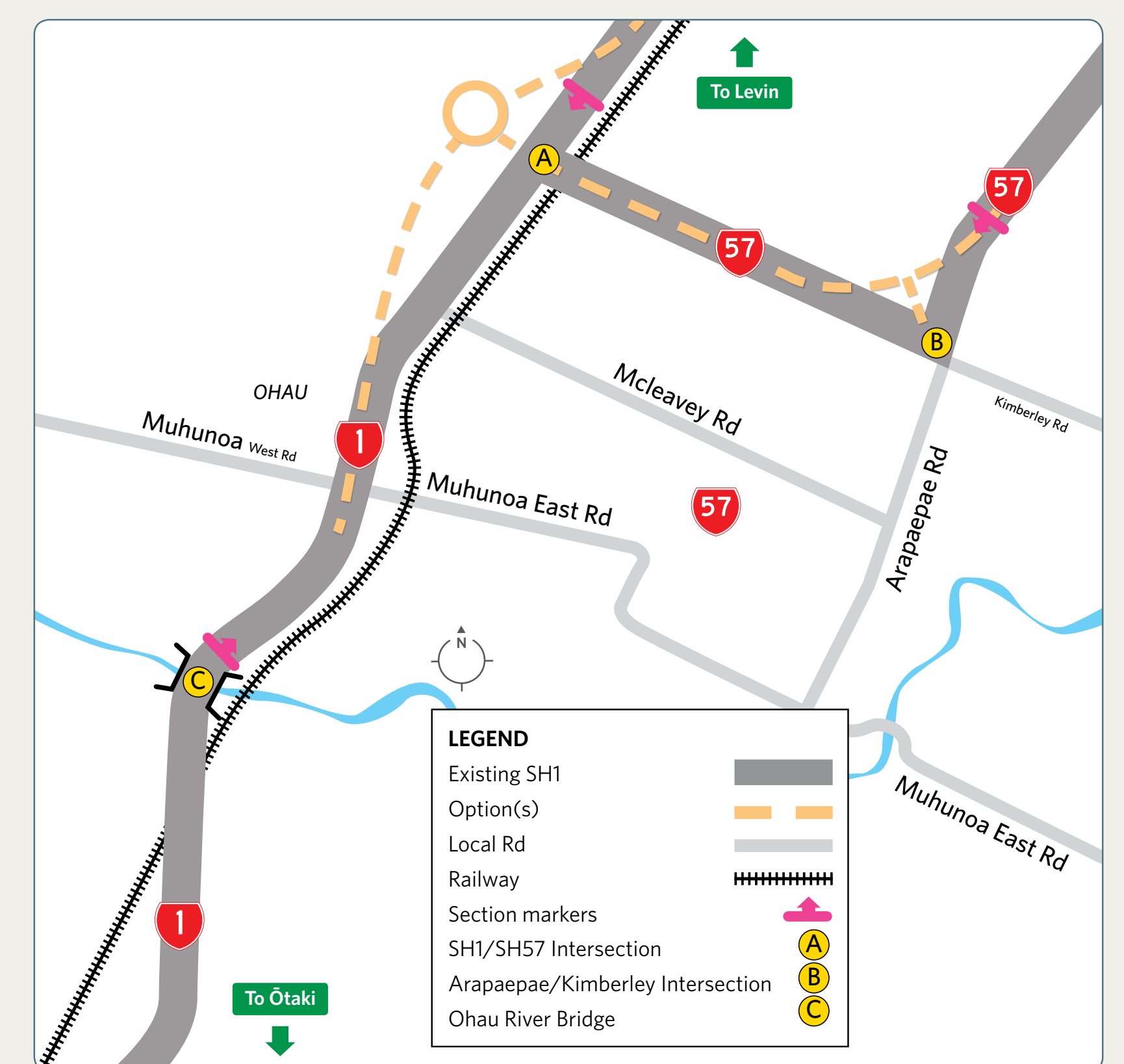
The SH1/57 intersection could be improved by constructing an elevated interchange or overbridge, as depicted in the diagram to the right.

A roundabout could also be an option at this intersection and is depicted in the diagram below. For safety purposes, the roundabout would need to be located far enough away from SH1, as shown, to ensure that vehicles couldn't back over SH1 and the railway line at peak travelling times.

A key consideration for us is how any of the above options could provide a four lane road in the future. We would also need to understand how four lanes could be built and operated safely through Ohau township, as well as effectively addressing the existing safety issues identified for this section of SH1. In particular, we would carefully need to consider how to effectively separate traffic at the SH1/Muhunua Road intersection, how much it would cost to achieve such an outcome and the wider impacts this would have on the local community.



An elevated interchange option



A roundabout option



An artists' impression of what a new SH1/57 elevated interchange could look like if improvements are made away from the existing highway.