

Making Northland's roads safer

We're improving road safety on State Highway 1 between Whangārei and Port Marsden Highway (SH15) through various safety treatments. These improvements can prevent crashes happening, or if a crash does occur, they can stop people from being killed or seriously injured.

BACKGROUND

There are a high number of deaths and serious injuries on the busy stretch of highway south of Whangārei.

Planning is currently underway for an upgraded 22km four-lane corridor between Whangārei and Port Marsden Highway, with construction expected to be complete in 2028.

In the interim, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency will deliver safety improvements along the existing state highway corridor.

This is the first and northernmost stage of a larger project to improve safety on SH1 between Whangārei and Wellsford.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

Traffic disruption will be minimal as we construct or install these safety improvements. Work is expected to get underway in early 2021 and will take approximately 18 months.

The safety improvements will all be carried out within the existing road corridor. Waka Kotahi will not need to purchase any property along the route.

Median barriers are planned for sections of road without driveways only, so will not affect access to the state highway for local residents.

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS WILL I SEE?



Rumble strips

Rumble strips could be the difference between straying off the road or staying on it. The raised markings make a rumbling sound when you drive over them. This gives you a wake-up call if you stray across the line.



Wide centrelines

Widening the centreline means more space between you and oncoming vehicles. It is a simple and effective way to steer drivers away from each other – giving you time to react and helping prevent crashes if someone makes a mistake. More space between lanes can reduce serious crashes by up to 20%.



Median barriers

Median barriers prevent head-on crashes, which is how most people are killed or seriously injured on our roads. They can reduce deaths and serious injuries by up to 65%.



Edge barriers and widened shoulders

Edge barriers stop your vehicle before you hit something harder – like a tree, power pole or oncoming vehicle. They can reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by up to 30%.

A wider sealed road shoulder provides room to recover if you lose control or need to take evasive action. Shoulder widening can reduce crashes by up to 35%.

These proven safety interventions are being installed as part of the Waka Kotahi contribution to New Zealand's Road Safety Strategy, Road to Zero. For more information visit www.nzta.govt.nz/safety



SH1 WHANGĀREI TO WELLSFORD - NORTHERN SECTION



FURTHER INFORMATION

Sign up to receive project updates at www.nzta.govt.nz/whangarei-to-wellsford/

Contact us at northlandproject@nzta.govt.nz or 0800 44 44 49