WHAT IS THE SH20A TO AIRPORT PROJECT?

The NZ Transport Agency has secured $140M of Government funding to upgrade State Highway 20A. The State Highway will be upgraded with a new motorway interchange constructed at the Kirkbride Road intersection. Construction is scheduled to commence in early 2015 and take two years to complete.

State Highway 20A is the primary route to Auckland Airport and forms a strategic link between the Western Ring Route (SH20 and SH16), the airport and the greater Auckland area. SH20A is also a crucial connection to the regional ports and industrial areas and plays a significant role in connecting Auckland and a growing New Zealand.

The signalised intersection at SH20A/Kirkbride Road is heavily congested during peak travel periods, creating significant delays to traffic travelling to and from the airport. Projected population growth in Auckland and increasing volumes of air passengers will place additional pressure on SH20A in the future. There are also safety issues with the current road layout, with the intersection ranking as the 100th most dangerous intersection in New Zealand.

The NZ Transport Agency’s upgrade of SH20A to motorway standard will provide a safer, more reliable route to and from the airport and will increase freight efficiency through South Auckland.

QUICK FACTS

- Budget – $140 million
- Construction scheduled to commence early 2015
- Estimated completion in early 2017
- Includes constructing a trench for SH20A traffic to pass underneath Kirkbride Road
- Project includes constructing Watercare’s Hunua 4 watermain across SH20A at Kirkbride Road

THE SH20A TO AIRPORT PROJECT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS:

- An upgrade of SH20A to motorway standard (currently expressway standard)
- Construction of a trench to separate motorway and local traffic at the SH20A/Kirkbride intersection
- Provision for future bus shoulder lanes
- Improved landscaping and lighting
- Protecting the environment through enhanced stormwater treatment and drainage
- Relocation of cycleway facilities from SH20A onto the local road network
PROJECT BENEFITS

Upgrading SH20A will improve journey reliability for traffic to and from Auckland Airport. Safety for all road users will be improved by separating motorway traffic from local traffic at the Kirkbride Road intersection. This will reduce the high number of crashes as well as provide a much safer journey for pedestrians and cyclists crossing Kirkbride Road.

The widened corridor and new Kirkbride Road interchange will support future population and business growth in the area, cater for increasing numbers of travellers, and improve freight efficiency in South Auckland. Relocating cyclists off SH20A and onto new cycling facilities on the local road network will improve safety for cyclists to and from the airport, as well as providing cycling connections with the Mangere community. 75% of visitors to New Zealand arrive at Auckland Airport. The improved landscaping and urban design of SH20A will provide an enhanced entry to New Zealand for visitors.

For the local community, the design of the Kirkbride Road bridge will reconnect the community currently severed by the State Highway. Lighting will improve safety at the intersection and over 750 metres of noise wall will provide benefits of reduced road noise to residents adjacent to the motorway.

Environmental benefits include improved stormwater drainage and treatment to protect the wider environment. Where possible, stormwater will be treated with planted swales and stormwater wetlands which will limit discharge to reduce contaminants entering local waterways.

KIRKBRIDE ROAD INTERSECTION

To improve journey time reliability to the airport, and to improve safety at this intersection, a trench will be constructed under Kirkbride Road to separate motorway traffic from local traffic. This grade separated intersection at the SH20A/Kirkbride Road intersection will allow motorway traffic to pass underneath Kirkbride Road.

The bridge connecting Kirkbride Road will include a shared pedestrian and cycle path to allow safe passage over SH20A and across the motorway ramps. This will make it safer and easier for the community, particularly for children who will no longer have to cross eight lanes of fast moving traffic to get to school.
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

In order to construct the trench and bridge across the highway, there will be changes to the current intersection layout. Some turning movements will be restricted during construction and local roads may experience heavier traffic flows as motorists are diverted along alternate routes. In addition to construction at the intersection, the Watercare Hunua 4 watermain will be constructed across Kirkbride Road at the same time. Working on both projects at the same time means impacting local traffic once, and for a shorter duration, than if the two projects were built separately.

To ensure airport traffic keeps flowing during construction, two traffic lanes in both directions will be maintained on SH20A at all times. And, to keep disruption to a minimum, we have limited the amount of road layout changes so regular users of the intersection can plan their routes with certainty. We’ll also be communicating regularly with the public and working closely with Auckland Transport to ensure local traffic, freight, and those travelling to and from the airport are kept well informed.

INTRODUCING THE MHX KIRKBRIDE ALLIANCE

The SH20A to Airport project is being delivered by the MHX Kirkbride Alliance. The team is comprised of the NZ Transport Agency, Beca Infrastructure, Fletcher Construction and Higgins Contractors. The Alliance is the same integrated and high performing team that delivered the SH20 Manukau Harbour Crossing project in 2010 and the SH20 Walmsley Road upgrade in 2011. As well as bringing together the skills and talent of leading engineering and construction organisations, the MHX Kirkbride Alliance has a well-developed knowledge of the project area. The Alliance takes pride in the opportunity to work on such a significant route for the Auckland Region and the project team is looking forward to returning to the Mangere community next year.

URBAN DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE

From an urban design perspective, SH20A is both a journey and a place. It is part of the arrival into Auckland and New Zealand for national and international travellers through Auckland Airport.

SH20A also has close neighbours – homes, workplaces, businesses, schools and places of value to local communities. The role of urban and landscape design on this project is to acknowledge these different functions, working to provide good outcomes for motorway users as well as for people living or working next to the state highway, and those walking, cycling or driving on the local roads.

Design concepts are being developed for the trench retaining walls, noise walls, bridge barriers and safety screens on the Kirkbride Road bridge. The final design aims to contribute to a distinctive arrival experience, through incorporating themes and stories that are meaningful to manawhenua.

The design will incorporate sustainable landscaping and improved stormwater design with planted swales and wetlands reducing contaminants entering the wider environment.

Additional urban design features on Kirkbride Road, including improved lighting and planting, aim to ensure shared paths and cycleways are visually appealing and safe.

KIRKBRIDE ROAD CROSS SECTION

Kirkbride Road will be improved to include a shared pedestrian/cycle path, as well as an on road cycle lane, on both sides of the road. This diagram shows what Kirkbride Road is likely to look like in the future.
COME AND FIND OUT MORE

The project team are currently putting the final touches on the design and we want to share our progress with you in October. Our public information days will provide an opportunity to view the plans, meet the MHX Kirkbride Alliance team and find out more about the project. Please visit us at a time that suits you on the following dates:

**Monday**
13 October
3pm–7pm
Mangere Central Community Centre,
241 Kirkbride Road, Mangere

**Wednesday**
15 October
3pm–7pm
Mangere Central Community Centre,
241 Kirkbride Road, Mangere

**Saturday**
18 October
11am–3pm
Sudima Hotel
Auckland Airport,
18 Airpark Drive, Airport Oaks

If English is not your first language we can organise a translation of this newsletter for you. Please contact us if you would like this service.

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT TO ACCELERATE AUCKLAND

In 2013, the Government announced significant investment to fast-track progress on several key projects in Auckland, including SH20A to Airport, the Southern Corridor Improvements, the Northern Corridor Improvements and East-West Connections. Fast tracking these projects will improve the key transport routes that provide the backbone to national and economic growth.

The ‘accelerated projects’ will address congestion, provide better transport links and improve journeys for both motorists and commercial vehicles.

Each of these projects will be delivered as a priority by the Transport Agency to ensure Aucklanders, and all New Zealanders, can experience improved journeys sooner rather than later.

CONTACT US

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