



Matamata, Te Poi to Tauriko and Tauriko to Te Maunga speed review



Have your say on safer speeds
Feedback is open from Wednesday 6 October
until 5pm Wednesday 3 November 2021

Imagine a future where no-one is killed or seriously injured in road crashes in the Waikato, Bay of Plenty or anywhere else in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Where everyone, no matter their age or ability, can get around safely. That's what we're working towards.

Speed limit conversations are often hard, but keeping people alive on our roads is, unashamedly, our number one priority.

That's why we're seeking feedback and reviewing speed limits on these state highways:

- State Highway 24 (SH24), from Matamata to the SH24/State Highway 29 (SH29) intersection
- SH29 from Te Poi to Tauriko in Tauranga
- State Highway 29A (SH29A) from Tauriko to Te Maunga (Baypark).

There's been a high number of crashes on these roads. Something needs to be done to turn this around.

We want to make sure that speeds are safe so we're reviewing the current speed limits.

Even when speed doesn't cause the crash, it's what will be most likely to determine whether anyone is killed, injured, or walks away unharmed from that crash. When speeds are safe for the road, simple mistakes are less likely to end in tragedy.

What we know

- Implementing safer speed limits is a key part of New Zealand's road safety strategy, Road to Zero 2020-30, and the Safe System approach which acknowledges even responsible people sometimes make mistakes when driving and aims to minimise the impact of those errors. Any proposal to drop speed limits is driven by the need to improve safety and reduce harm for everyone who uses our roads.
- The safety features of a road and the speed vehicles travel on it influence both the risk of a crash and whether it is survivable.
- Speed limits need to reflect the risk of the road. We know many of the current speed limits along State Highways 24, 29 and 29A are not safe for the way people use the road.
- There's a mixture of people using the road between Te Poi and Matamata, over the Kaimai Range and through Tauriko to Baypark and it carries commuting, freight and farming traffic.
- These roads have been identified nationally within the top 10% of the roading network that, if speed management was put in place, would get the greatest reduction in deaths and serious injuries.

- We've heard concerns from people in the community about the speed people are travelling through Te Poi and over the Kaimai Range.
- These roads are popular routes for trucks. We are reviewing the speed limits to ensure all road users are safe, and so truck drivers feel comfortable pulling out into traffic without putting themselves or anyone else at risk
- Concerns have been raised about safer access and speed zones for the various schools along these roads.

Through the speed review process, we will work with the local community to gather, share information and collaborate to ensure we understand your concerns.

On these roads, between 2010 and 2019, **118 people** were seriously injured, and **28 people** died.*



Tauriko and Matamata School Variable Speed Zones

The variable speed limit may operate for a maximum period of:

- 35 minutes before the start of school until the start of school;
- 20 minutes at the end of school, being no earlier than five minutes before the end of school, and;
- 10 minutes at any time when children cross the road or enter or leave vehicles at the roadside.

When the variable speed limit sign installed on the section of state highway displays the numerals '40', the speed limit is 40km/h. At all other times, the speed limit is 70km/h in Tauriko and 50km/h in Matamata.

Kaimai Range Weather Activated Speed Zone

A variable speed limit of 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or 100km/h. A speed limit applies from the point on the state highway at which a variable speed limit sign facing the road user is installed to the point in the direction of travel on the state highway at which a traffic sign, or a variable speed limit sign, indicating a different speed limit applies is:

- indicated by the numerals displayed on the variable speed limit sign, or
- 100km/h, if the variable speed limit sign is blank.

*Statistics are correct at the time they were produced.

Tell us what you think

Locals know their roads, so we want to hear what you think.

- Do the current speed limits feel safe, or not?
- What parts of the road do you think are dangerous and why?
- Is there anything you think we need to consider while we look at the speed limits?

How to have your say

To provide feedback:



Visit nzta.govt.nz/bop-speed-reviews



Email bayofplenty.speed.reviews@nzta.govt.nz



Or attend a drop-in session

3 - 6pm, Thursday 21 October

Te Poi School Hall
Stopford Road, RD3
Matamata

3 - 6pm, Friday 22 October

Matamata-Piako Civic and Memorial Centre
17 Tainui Street
Matamata

Please note: *These events will only proceed under COVID 19 Alert Levels 1 and 2. If they cannot proceed due to a change in alert levels you can still have your say by emailing your feedback or commenting on our interactive map on the project webpage.*

Speed review process

We'll use the feedback we get during engagement to recommend what speed limits are best for these roads and then formally consult with you. The stages of the speed review are:

Speed review starts

A technical assessment of the road is carried out to find out about crash history, average vehicle speeds, volume of vehicles and development of surrounding areas. This helps to determine what safe and appropriate speeds should be.

Engagement

We talk to local communities and stakeholders to understand how the road is being used, any safety concerns and get feedback on current speeds.

Formal consultation

Changing a speed limit is a legal process, so this stage involves sharing a detailed proposal with people and asking for any additional information that might have an impact on the final decision.

Notification of speed limit change

Feedback is considered and final decision is published on our website and the public is notified.

New speed limit on the road

New speed limit signs installed on the road.



Contact details bayofplenty.speed.reviews@nzta.govt.nz

We know speed is just one part of the road safety puzzle



Along with reviewing speeds this year, we'll be undertaking nearly 30km of surfacing renewals on these roads over the next three years. We're also looking at safety improvements plus other maintenance activities to further improve safety along this state highway.

But making sure the speed limit is right for the road is still one of the best ways we can save lives on New Zealand roads.

You can read more about how we are working with the NZ Police, Ministry of Transport, local government, WorkSafe and others to deliver Road to Zero, New Zealand's road safety strategy at nzta.govt.nz/safety/what-waka-kotahi-is-doing/nz-road-safety-strategy