

## 3 Vickers to City Upgrade



### October 2015 - Issue 15

While it might not be as dramatic as Alice (the boring machine) breaking through in Auckland, we're very excited that work here in New Plymouth is progressing well. Both bridges are nearly finished and the entire project should be completed by the end of May 2016.

### What's been happening?

After quite a bit of work, the soil anchor wall underneath Paynters Avenue is now in place and we are just finishing off a few last bits and pieces. The additional space that has been created will allow us to have two lanes in both directions and cycle lanes underneath the bridge.



Pumping concrete at Paynters Ave

At Waiwhakaiho Bridge we've put up and painted the barriers, installed the lighting and are now getting ready to put on the asphalt. You'll also see similar things are happening at the Te Henui Bridge.

We're still working on the the new water mains at the Mangorei Road intersection. We've put in a number of big concrete blocks (called thrust blocks) to keep the pipes in place and stop the pipes being moved by the water pressure. Soon we'll be doing some pressure tests on the pipe soon to check it is ready before we switch the water over to the new pipes.

### What's coming up?

#### Waiwhakaiho Bridge

Over the next month we'll be making the finishing touches to the Waiwhakaiho Bridge and in mid-November we'll be opening up one of the southbound lanes so you can drive across it. This will mean that if you are heading south you will need to change lanes for Northgate or Fitzroy as early as possible (vehicles exiting Bridle Street will need to access Fitzroy via Mangorei Road). Queens Road will also be opened to traffic at this time.

Building bridges is tough work, so you might see us taking some photos and doing a little celebratory jig as the first car drives over it.

We'll also be opening the footpath from Bridle Street and over the new bridge to connect with the Waiwhakaiho Walkway. We know the closure of these footpaths has been disruptive. We'd like to thank you for your understanding while we've been doing this work and hope you enjoy your new paths.

#### Te Henui Bridge

We'll continue to work on the Te Henui Bridge and will be putting the finishing touches on the walkway, including the fencing, up to New Plymouth Girls High School. As you can see from the picture below we'll also be very patiently connecting around 2,000 tiny new communications cables!



Pumping concrete at Paynters Ave

#### Mangorei Road

Work continues at the Mangorei Road intersection where we'll progress with relocating the water main and erecting new street lights. Not only will there be improved street lighting, but we're also widening the footpath between Mangorei Road and Paynters Avenue for those of you that like to walk around the city.

#### Watson Street

We're going to start building the road from the new Te Henui Bridge up to Watson Street. To do this we're going to close the end of Watson Street between Northgate Road and Lemon Street from **2 November to 18 December 2015**.

Vehicles will be able to access the cemetery via Hobson and Lemon Streets. Pedestrian access will still be available via Watson Street, but there will be a minor footpath diversion through the work site. For your safety please follow the marked routes.

New street light cabling is going to be installed under the footpaths between Watson and Hobson Streets from **16 November to 11 December 2015**. We will maintain pedestrian access here by removing the existing car parks and creating a temporary footpath on the road.

### Questions you have been asking us

Firstly, a big thank you for those of you who have been letting us know about the potholes that you spotted on SH3 between Bridle and Hobson Streets. We've been fixing these as you let us know about them and when we find them.

#### Will the railings on the existing bridges get a spruce up?

Yes they will. We will be cleaning and repainting all the handrails on the existing bridges and we will also be cleaning the footpaths.

#### How do the traffic lights detect waiting vehicles?

In the road, just before the traffic lights, we install inductance loops. The loops are triggered when a vehicle drives over them and sends a message to the traffic lights to indicate a vehicle is waiting and changes colour when possible. This system minimises the amount of time vehicles are kept waiting and keeps the traffic flowing as efficiently as possible.

We've also installed cameras at the Mangorei Road and Devon Street East intersections which are monitored by the Wellington Traffic Operations Centre (WTOC). WTOC have the ability to adjust the signals manually from the control room if needed, helping to keep the transport network working as efficiently as possible.

**If you have any questions or would like more information on the Vickers to City project please call 0508 V2C INFO (0508 822 4636), send us an email or visit the website.**