We’re investigating how we can improve road safety and ease congestion on State Highway 3 between Waitara and Bell Block.

Give us your views

What we've learned so far

We hosted two public open days in March 2017 to better understand local travel patterns, the routes people take and the sort of problems they encounter when using SH3 between Waitara and Bell Block.

People told us...

The bigger the words the more important they were to you.
SH3 Waitara to Bell Block
State Highway 3 is an important connection between New Plymouth, Waitara and beyond. It connects the Taranaki and Waikato regions, providing an important link for Port Taranaki, the New Plymouth Airport and major industries to the rest of the upper North Island.

The NZ Transport Agency is investigating SH3 between Waitara and Bell Block to find ways to help improve road safety, reduce crashes and ease congestion.

We’ve identified the following problems:

- This section of SH3 has a poor safety record and in recent years there have been a large number of crashes causing death and serious injuries.
- Future growth between Waitara and Bell Block is expected to increase travel demand which will reduce safety and increase congestion, making journey times longer.

Phase Two: SH3A to Airport Drive
Using the feedback from the previous engagement, alongside technical work, we have developed several options. These are displayed on the map below and are working through potential solutions. Your feedback will help us decide on a solution.

**Airport Drive/De Havilland Drive roundabout**
We are considering four possible roundabout options:
- Roundabout at Airport Drive
- Roundabout at De Havilland Drive
- Roundabout in the middle
- Roundabouts at both intersections

**Median barrier**
Running down the centre of the road, the cables would prevent head on crashes. They would flex to absorb the impact, slow you down and redirect you away from oncoming vehicles.

**Wide centreline**
Already exists
This creates more space between you and oncoming vehicles and allows space to recover if drivers make a mistake.

**Restricted turning along the route**
This would help prevent side on crashes caused by drivers turning across the busy State highway.

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**Wide shoulders**
This gives drivers room to recover if they make a mistake. It also makes room for slower vehicles like tractors to pull over so others can pass.

**Side barriers**
These would be put in along the side of the road where the risk of a crash is high. They catch drivers who leave their lane before they hit something harder like a pole, tree or ditch.

**Reinstate passing lane, only if a median barrier is installed.**

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**Phase Three: Airport Drive to Bell Block**
This part of the road is more complex and will require more investigation.

**Two options for speed limit**
- 80km/h to remain if there is no median barrier.
- 100km/h could be reintroduced if the road is made safer with the introduction of median and side barriers.

**Future Proofing**
None of the options would preclude four-laning this section of highway in the future.
Phase Three: Airport Drive to Bell Block

This part of the road is more complex and will require more investigation.

Next steps

We’ll consider all the feedback we get as we finalise the options to improve road safety and travel times along this stretch of State Highway 3.

For Phase Two, we will undertake more detailed design next year and expect to start work in early 2019.

Investigations will continue on Phase Three.

Have your say

You can give us your feedback online, via email or mail:

nzta.govt.nz/w2bb

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Help us make this stretch of road safer and more efficient for everyone.