



Tikitere to Whakatāne speed review



Safer speeds are safer for everyone

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

Where everyone, no matter their age or ability, can get around safely and our road system improves the places and spaces we love.

That's what we're working towards.

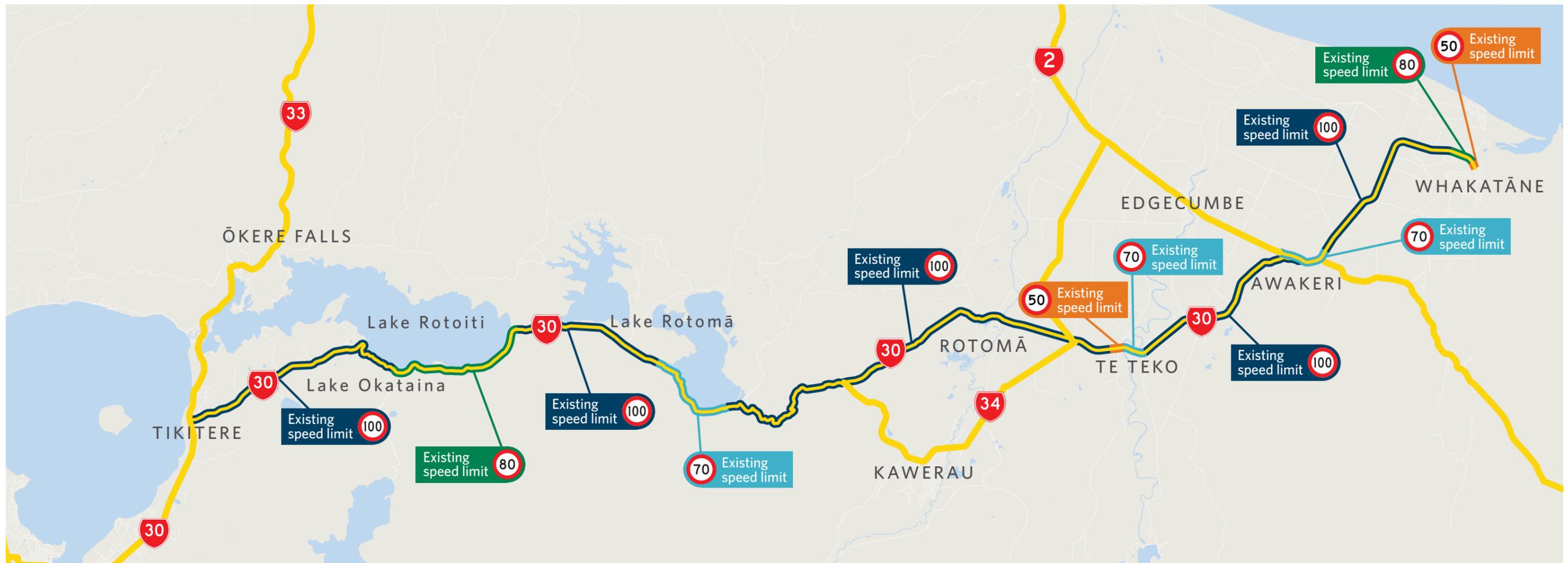
Speed limit conversations are often hard, but keeping people alive on our roads is, unashamedly, our number one priority.

International research tells us that no matter what causes a crash, the speed of a vehicle at impact is the single biggest factor that determines if you or someone you love is seriously injured, dies or survives unharmed.

That's why we are seeking feedback on safer speeds along State Highway 30 (SH30) between Tikitere (Rotorua) and Whakatāne.

There have been a high number of crashes on SH30 between Tikitere and Whakatāne. Most of the crashes have been head-on, run off road and speed related. We want to make this road safer by reviewing the current speed limits and find out where other safety improvements might be needed.

Even when speed doesn't cause the crash, it's what will 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.



Tell us what you think

We know there is an issue with the current speed limits on SH30 so we are reviewing them. We want to hear what you think about speed on this road, how it is being used, any safety concerns and your feedback on the existing speed limits.

- 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?

Between 2010 and 2019, 10 people died and 73 were seriously injured. We need to do something to turn this around.

Note: Statistics are correct at the time they were produced.



What we know

- 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.
- We've heard concerns from the community about the speed people are travelling along SH30, through Rotoiti, Rotomā, Te Teko, Awakeri and as you enter Whakatāne. This feedback reflects that the current speed limits are not safe for the way people use the road.
- SH30 has sweeping bends and is narrow and winding in places. This road runs along the lakeside villages of Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Rotomā, also passing through native forest before accessing the outskirts of Kawerau.
- SH30 is the main connector between Rotorua and Whakatāne and is used for everything from commuting, to freight, to tourism. There are a variety of road users between Tikerere and Whakatāne.
- We're reviewing the speed to improve safety, and reduce the severity of crashes when they happen.

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

Have your say

Locals know their roads, so we want to hear what you think about current speed limits along SH30.

Feedback is open from Wednesday 9 June until 5pm Wednesday 7 July 2021.

You can provide feedback by:

- visiting: nzta.govt.nz/bayofplenty-speed-reviews
- emailing bayofplenty.speed.reviews@nzta.govt.nz
- attending a drop-in session:

Rotoiti Sports Club 1303 State Highway 30 Rotoiti	Saturday 12 June 10am - 1pm
The Hub (outside Farmers) 3 Phoenix Drive Whakatāne	Saturday 19 June 11am - 2pm
Awakeri Event Centre SH30 Awakeri	Thursday 24 June 3pm - 6pm

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 process are:

SPEED REVIEW STARTS

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 speed limits.

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

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.

How many people should die on our roads each year?

How many people should die or be seriously injured on roads each year? We think zero is the only acceptable number and we're committed to delivering Road to Zero: New Zealand's road safety strategy – a plan to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads.



We're working with the NZ Police, Ministry of Transport, local government, WorkSafe and others to reduce deaths and serious injuries on New Zealand's roads, cycleways and footpaths.

Our initial target is a 40 percent reduction by 2030, which would mean reducing annual road deaths to 227 and serious injuries to 1680.

This requires a fundamental shift in how we think about, design, build and use our transport system – and every person using our transport system will have a part to play in this.

The initial action plan includes further investment in roading improvements like median and side safety barriers, improving vehicle safety, a greater focus on road policing and a new approach to speed management, which will see us reviewing speeds on a number of high-risk highways around New Zealand.

More than 3200 people have died in road crashes in New Zealand, and an estimated 23,000 have been seriously injured over the past 10 years.

Those are staggering figures. They should horrify us. Deaths and serious injuries on our roads are not inevitable. We have the opportunity to collectively make New Zealand's road safer.

Find out more about New Zealand's road safety strategy nzta.govt.nz/safety/what-waka-kotahi-is-doing/nz-road-safety-strategy/



Contact details



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