

SH5: Wairakei to SH38 safety improvements

Safer roads for safer journeys

We want to make the 47km section of SH5, beginning at Wairakei in the south through to the SH5/SH38 intersection at Rainbow Mountain in the north, safer for everyone who uses it. This project is part of the Government's Safe Roads and Roadsides programme which aims to prevent 900 deaths and serious injuries on rural state highways over the next 10 years.

What are the issues with this road?

There are three sections of the highway (a total of 23km in length) where there are more crashes than on the rest of the road. These are at the northern end, towards SH38, centrally (around Mihi and the Waikato River) and at the southern end, at Wairakei. The road is windy with narrow shoulders in some places and this is contributing to a high number of run-off-road crashes.

The road is difficult for drivers to read and choose appropriate speeds for. Intersection visibility is also an area of concern. The mix of road users (tourists, commercial vehicles and locals) adds to the complexity of the safety issues.

Deaths and serious injuries over the past decade

In the 10 years between 2006 - 2015 there have been:

35 Serious crashes



12 People die



42 Seriously injured



How can I find out more and share my ideas?



Send us an email team@saferoads.co.nz and let us know your thoughts.



Talk to us in person, phone our project manager Jeremy Froger **021 955 720**.



Provide feedback online at nzta.govt.nz/sh5-to-sh38/have-your-say and let us know what you think before 19 December.

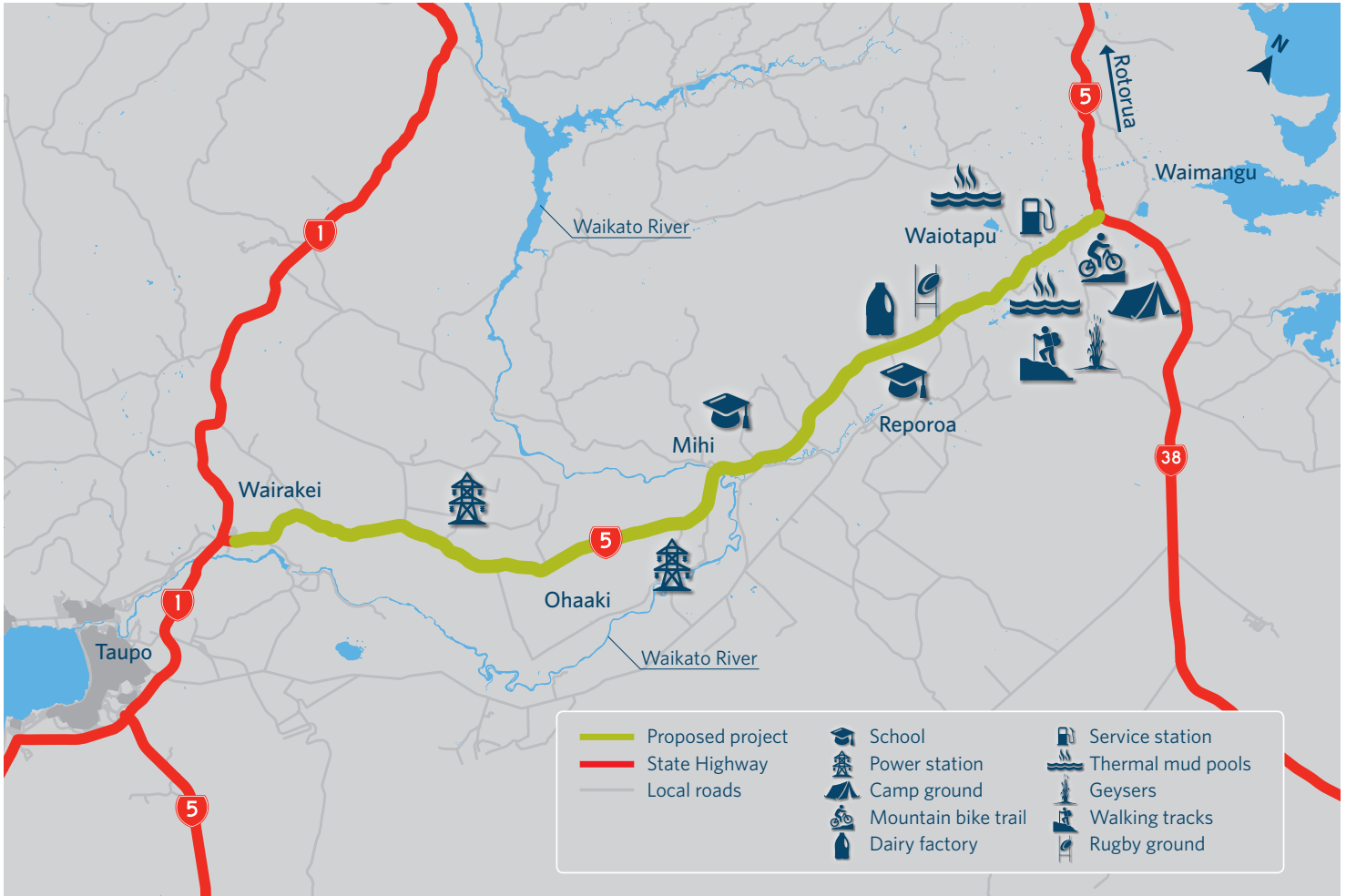


What we are proposing to make this stretch of the highway safer

We want to improve the safety of the highway by installing semi rigid road safety barriers at high-risk locations to prevent vehicles running off the road. We also want to widen some shoulders, add widened centrelines, make minor intersection improvements and look at options around speed management.



There's more information on our website:
nzta.govt.nz/sh5-to-sh38



How will I access my property if side barriers are installed?

There will be gaps in the barriers every 500m and at driveways. Where side safety barriers are installed outside property entrances, a gap at least 23 metres wide - sufficient to allow a bus to pull off the road - will be provided.

Let us know if you want to talk to us about the location of the barrier outside your property. We're happy to meet and talk to you. The contractor will meet you to talk through any impact construction of the barrier may have on access to your property.

Isn't it better to run off the road than to hit a solid object like a side barrier?

If a car or motorcycle runs off the road, it's safer to hit a side barrier than a hazard on the side of the road, such as a tree, fence, power pole or ditch. Side barriers reduce the likelihood of death and serious injuries from run-off-road crashes by 65 per cent.

How will agricultural machinery and school buses stop on the road if there are side barriers?

Vehicles will need to slow down behind slower moving agricultural machinery, and wait until there is a safe passing opportunity, or until the slower vehicle pulls into one of the gaps in the barriers.

What's happening, and when?



December 2016 - February 2017: Look at safety options with the local community



February 2017: Determine preferred safety options



March - June 2017: Refine plans with landowners



Spring 2017: Construction begins



More Information

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