

3 Vickers to City Upgrade

Project Update

Connecting people to the things they do every day, whether that's work, school, business or pleasure means we need to improve an important section of State Highway 3. With safety and traffic bottlenecks regularly affecting travel, starting work on the Vickers to City project design phase means we have moved a step closer to resolving some key issues on the 5.3km link between the Bell Block Bypass and New Plymouth city.



What are the issues

- A joint strategic study by New Plymouth District Council and the NZTA in 2008 found a number of issues are causing delays and other problems on the network. The significant issues include:
 - The SH3 / Devon Street East intersection is nearing capacity during peak times. In addition SH3 / Mangorei Road intersection is also approaching capacity for a number of movements at the intersection.
 - SH3 is the only route to the north and east of New Plymouth city with no parallel network; which means there wouldn't be alternative travel options if something happened on the network, such as a crash,
- Freight from the north relies on this route to travel between industries and Taranaki Port,
- People travelling locally clash with the needs of regional freight passing through,
- Extensive residential, commercial and industrial development of the Waiwhakaiho and Bell Block areas is going to create more pressure on the transport network.

Following the Strategic Study, we investigated the types of improvements that could be made and developed a set of proposals, which is what we are currently designing. Before we finalise these designs we will be asking for your feedback to make sure the end result meets different users' needs.

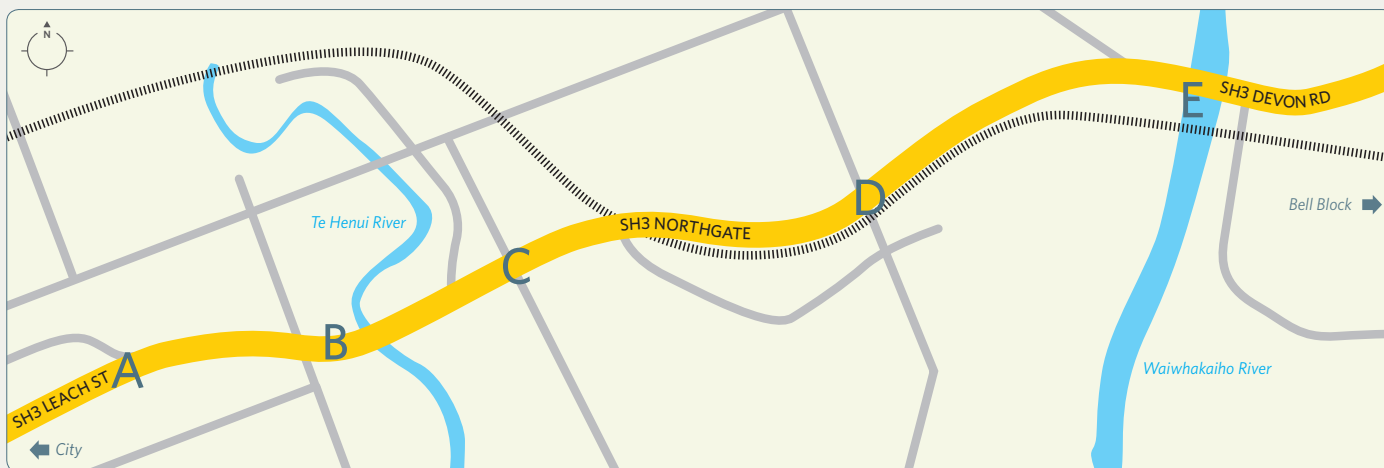
What we propose

An essential part of the project will be addressing delays on and around Waiwhakaiho Bridge. We will be constructing a second bridge and creating two lanes of traffic in each direction, along with a right-turn lane into Devon Street East to resolve this issue.

As New Plymouth city is part of the model walking and cycling community, pedestrians and cyclists are a key consideration of the project. These road users will benefit from dedicated walking and cycling paths along the route. Providing for these vulnerable road users is important, particularly as cycling facilities along the State highway are limited.

Other improvements along SH3 include:

- A second bridge over the Te Henui Stream
- A number of intersection improvements, particularly at Devon Street East and Mangorei Road
- Providing four lanes of traffic (two in each direction) at various locations between Devon Street East and the City.



LEGEND

- | | |
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| A SH3 LEACH ST/NORTHGATE | D SH3 NORTHGATE/PAYNTERS AVE OVERBRIDGE |
| B SH3 NORTHGATE/WATSON STREET | E SH3 DEVON RD/DEVON ST EAST |
| C SH3 NORTHGATE/MANGOREI ROAD | |

Outcomes

This project represents an investment of roughly \$15 million dollars in improving:

- the capacity of the existing road
- travel time reliability
- the route's resilience with duplicated bridges
- the road's ability to meet future needs from expected growth
- access and local connectivity
- journey times for freight to the north and east of New Plymouth city.

We want everybody to have choices about how they travel - whether that's on foot, on a bike, in a car, on a bus or in some other type of vehicle, both on the state highway and on local roads.

As a result of the project we also want to make it easier and safer for people to travel in, or through, New Plymouth by improving traffic flow, reducing delays and addressing safety concerns for motorists, truck drivers and vulnerable road users, like cyclists.

Public feedback

Integral to the design process for the Vickers to City Upgrade project will be public feedback that will be called for later in the year. We will be working closely with the local community and key stakeholders like the council.

Local comments and information, which will be integrated into our detailed design, will help in making the project successful. Part of this process will also be to ensure the local community understand the purpose of the project and why different changes will be made.

Programme:

- Project investigations completed in December 2012
- Detailed design began in March 2013
- Public Open Days are scheduled during Winter 2013
- Construction is currently expected to begin early 2014.

Contact us

See the project website on www.nzta.govt.nz/network/projects/sh3-vickers-to-new-plymouth-city/ or contact the NZTA project team at centralroadprojects@nzta.govt.nz
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