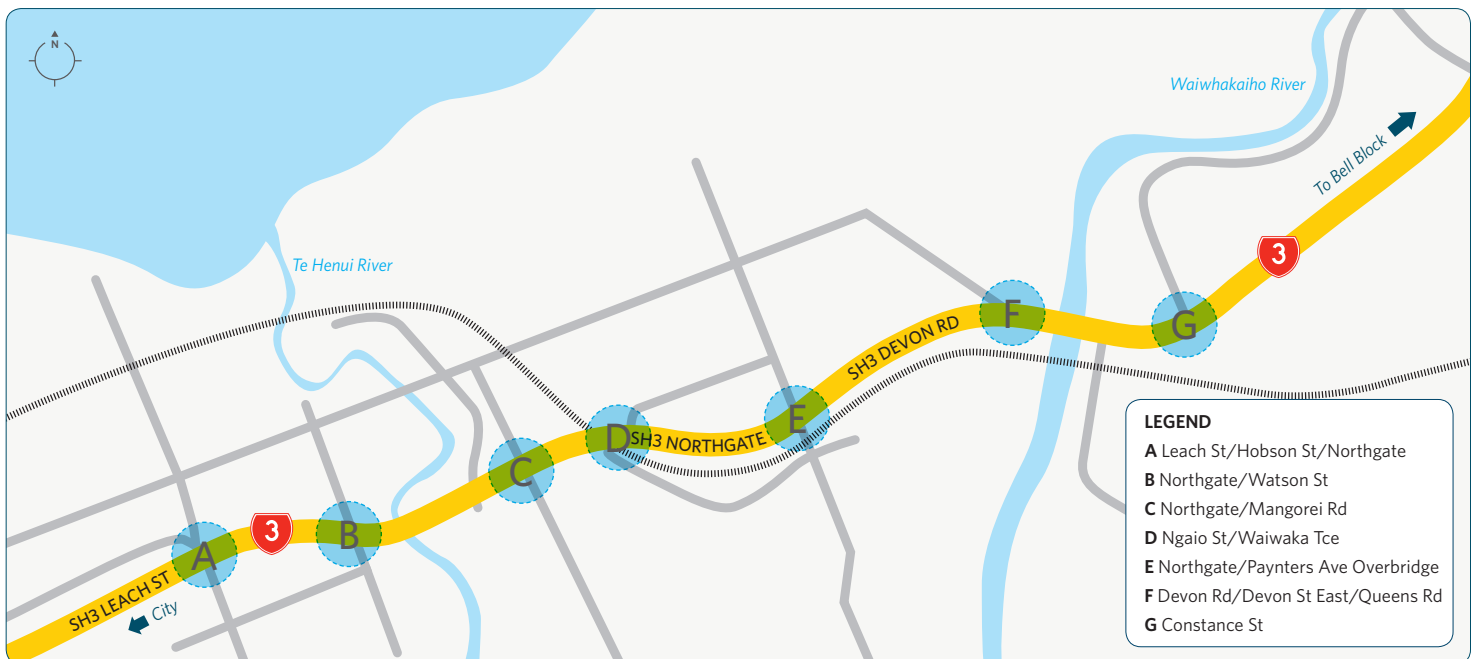


Project update

Issue 05
May 2014

Since our November update we have been busy preparing for the improvements that are going to be made to the road. Preparations have included finalising design details, requesting approvals to make changes to the road and writing the tender documents for the contractor to do the works.

We're committed to keeping you informed and wanted to update you on these activities and outline the next steps for the project.



Applications have been approved

We have completed documentation and received the majority of the Resource Management Act consent approvals required to make the changes to State Highway 3 and build the new bridges. When we have all these approvals we will be able to start the works soon after appointing a contractor.

Appointing a contractor

In March we began the process to appoint a contractor to construct the upgrade. We expect to have completed this process and appoint a contractor by June. Once the contractor is appointed they prepare and plan for the work to be carried out. Construction should start in July this year.

Work under Waiwhakaiho bridge

Over the past few months you may have seen or heard contractors working under the Waiwhakaiho bridge. These contractors have been doing additional ground investigations to help us clarify our designs for the new bridge. We would like to thank everyone for their patience while these investigations have been carried out.

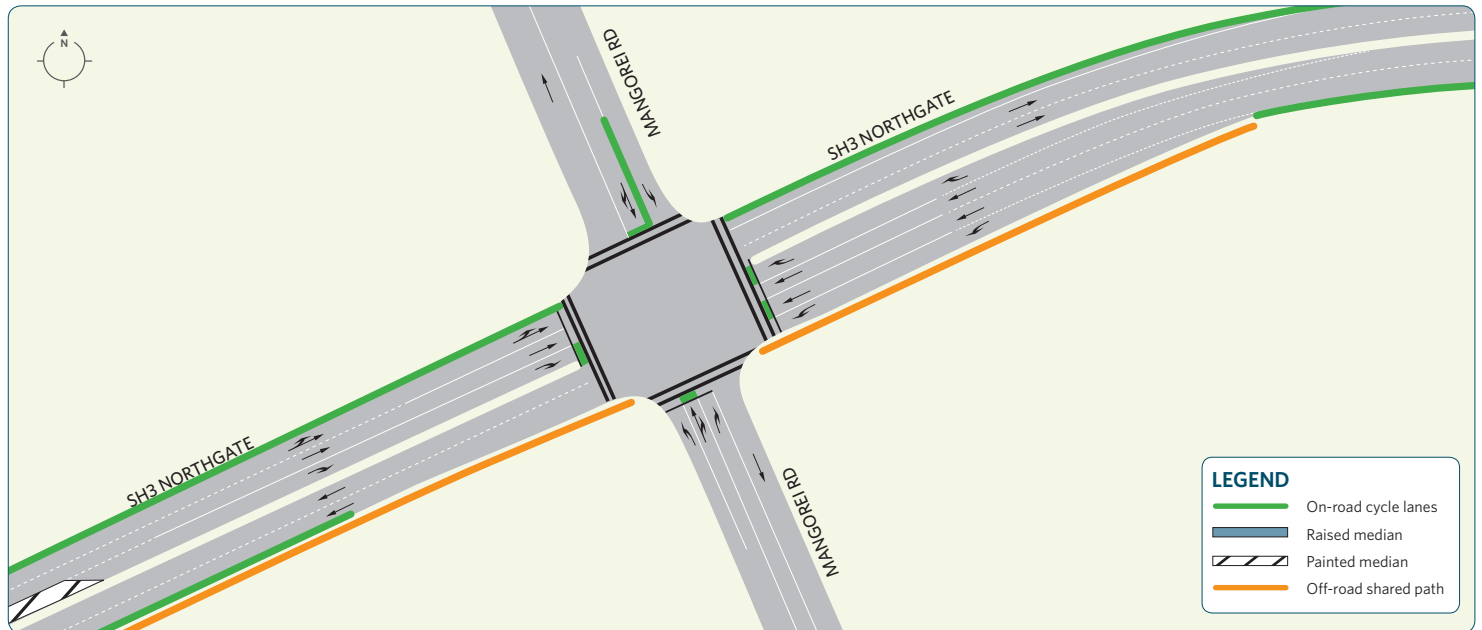
Next steps

12 May 2014	Contractors proposals received
June 2014	Contractor appointed
July 2014	Construction starts
2016	Construction completed

Improvements to the road

Many of you will have already experienced first-hand some of the reasons why improvements need to be made to this section of road. As a result of the project we 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.

We will do this by building two new bridges, improving on and off-road cycle routes and making improvements to seven intersections along the road, including Mangorei St (pictured). Maps of the improvements planned for all seven sections can be viewed on the Transport Agency website www.nzta.govt.nz.



Investing in the future

State Highway 3 is a critical link to and from New Plymouth which needs to be improved. Currently the route is affected by regular delays and inconsistent travel times. Not only is this part of State Highway 3 an important route for people to travel to and from New Plymouth City, it's also relied on heavily by freight moving to and from Port Taranaki and the airport. It is also the only route to the north and east of New Plymouth, making it important to the Taranaki economy. It is critical for us to get traffic moving more freely along it.

Residential and commercial growth in the Waiwhakaiho and Bell Block areas are likely to result in this route getting busier in the coming years. These changes will allow the road to meet future

traffic demand, as well as increasing people's walking and cycling options.

The project supports the Taranaki Regional Council Land Transport Strategy's aim of providing residents and visitors with the ability to move themselves and freight through the region, efficiently and safely. It will also make a substantial contribution to the strategy's aim of connecting the land transport system to the well-being of the local communities and the future prosperity of the region. This is an integral part of the Transport Agency's approach to funding transport improvements – supporting people and their local or regional economies.

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