

National Land Transport Programme 2009-12
Waikato



What has been happening in Waikato

Good progress has been made in delivering both regional and national strategic priorities in the Waikato region, with a significant amount of work completed and new projects started during the last 18 months.

Development of the region's number one priority - the Waikato Expressway RoNS - is ahead of programme. Construction is underway on two sections (Te Rapa and the Taupiri Link) and construction funding is confirmed for the Ngaruawahia section. Strong progress is also being made on the Kopu Bridge project.

For local authorities, all maintenance, operations and renewals budgets were fully committed and any unspent funds cash flowed into the current year. This allows local authorities to effectively manage their programmes to budget. A number of significant local authority projects are programmed for delivery in the region, with the largest local roading project for the region - Taupo District Council's East Taupo Arterial - opened in October. The Hamilton Ring Road project received funding approval and construction is expected to commence in early 2011.

During the last 18 months, the NZTA has signalled changes to the Demand Management and Transport Planning activity classes. These have been introduced and funding is confirmed for the remainder of the programme.

Another significant activity is the joint NZTA-Hamilton City Council Southern Links strategic corridor package, which is under investigation.

A number of state highway projects included in the national programme need to be deferred due to NLTP cash flow constraints, including the Kirikiri Stream Bridge Replacement and various minor realignment projects in the Waikato.



Achievements and highlights

- Development of seven sections making up the Waikato Expressway RoNS continues.
- The NZTA endorsed the Waikato Expressway network plan and supported Hamilton City Council's Access Hamilton strategy.
- The Waikato Regional Transport Model is operational and will be a critical tool for transport planning across the region.

Key messages

The availability of funding from the NLTP is tight and will remain so into the next NLTP, where the investment focus in the Waikato region will be mostly on progressing the Waikato Expressway RoNS, improvements in network security and resilience, and initiatives to reduce death and serious injury. The pressure on funding means that only high priority state highway and local road projects will be considered for investment and closer scrutiny of proposed programmes is expected to ensure outcomes will be delivered and best value for money achieved.

It is also critically important for the NZTA to be informed by approved organisations as early as possible in this NLTP about any funded projects or group allocation that are not likely to proceed as planned, so that the funds can be reallocated to high priority projects.

	\$ R	\$ C
Total	\$193.6m	\$202.0m
Spent/committed	\$193.6m	\$202.0m
Planned	\$0.0m	\$0.0m

All of the regionally distributed funds available to the Waikato to 2015 have been allocated to a variety of projects, including the East Taupo Arterial and the Waikato Expressway RoNS.

Of the \$215 million of C funds provided to the Waikato, \$13 million have been allocated outside of the NLTP to rail projects. This leaves \$202 million for NLTP activities. All of the NLTP C funds have been allocated to sections of the Waikato Expressway RoNS.