



Waikato Expressway

Huntly Section

Update Sheet April 2011

Investigation and Design Phase Progress Update

Hamilton based engineering consultants, Bloxam Burnett and Olliver (BBO), were awarded a contract in April 2010 to assist the NZTA with the investigation and design of the Huntly Section of the Waikato Expressway.

Since the award of the contract, BBO have progressed their investigation and design work in order to identify a final alignment for the Huntly Section. This has involved:

- A detailed review of the preliminary design of the alignment that formed part of the Designation.
- Detailed geotechnical, engineering, and environmental investigations to confirm the alignment, the amount of land required for it and what works will be required to meet the Designation conditions imposed and any likely resource consent conditions.
- Further consultation with landowners directly affected by the Designation, Waikato-Tainui, and other key stakeholders.

The review has focused on the existing designated alignment, which is approximately 150 metres to 200 metres in width, as well as options for shifts in the designated corridor to the west and east.

Key findings from the review undertaken to date include:

- The designated alignment is generally appropriate, although some areas of improvement have been identified.
- No viable options have been identified for corridors to the west of the designated alignment.
- Through the northern sector of the Huntly Section, the Designation is suitable with no identified advantages

of routes extending outside the Designation to the east or the west.

- An alternative alignment to the east of the designated corridor through the central sector and the Taupiri Range has been identified as having a number of advantages. The 'alternative preferred alignment' raises the level of the road from within the base of a valley to a ridge located to the east of the same valley. This will result in the road generally being more elevated and visible at points adjacent to the alignment. However, the alternative preferred alignment will have a number of significant advantages, including:
 - ▶ the avoidance of a stream within the valley;
 - ▶ an improvement of the geometry of the road by reducing curves in the road and by reducing the road gradient;
 - ▶ better subsurface conditions for the construction of a road;
 - ▶ avoidance of coal mining operations;
 - ▶ less earthworks and in particular a smaller cut through the main ridge of the Taupiri Range due to the elevated position of the road.
- Within the southern sector of the Huntly Section, around the point that the Expressway will cross the Mangawara Stream, an alternative alignment to the east of the designated corridor has been identified. The 'alternative preferred alignment' takes advantage of more favourable topography by passing around the eastern end of a spur of the Taupiri Range, avoiding a major cutting through the well vegetated steep country.

Tangata Whenua Working Party

Taupiri Maunga is a very significant site to Waikato-Tainui. Any development in the vicinity of Taupiri Maunga therefore raises interest and concern for the tribe.

Waikato-Tainui in their role as kaitiaki of their rohe have established a working party made up of local Marae and hapuu representatives to work with NZTA on the Huntly Section.

The role of the working party is to be actively involved in the resource consenting stage, through design and construction to the opening karakia.

The working party will produce a Cultural Impact Assessment report which outlines mitigations, recommendations and conditions, which include the protection of waahi tapu, taonga and koiwi.

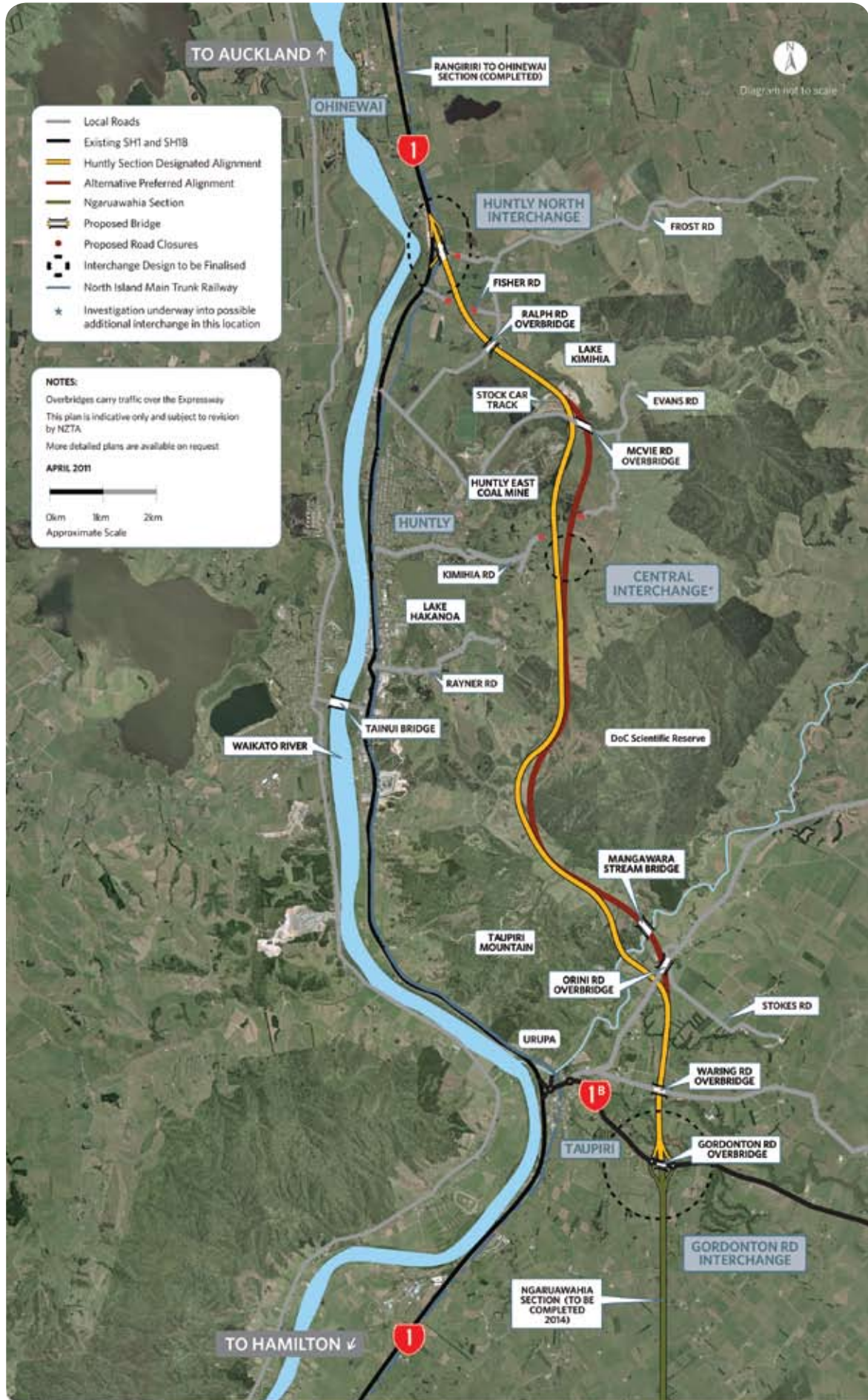
Public Information Day

NZTA is holding a public information day for the Huntly Section of the Waikato Expressway on **Thursday the 5th of May 2011** and you are warmly invited to attend.

The information day is being held at the **Huntly Workingmen's Club, corner of Glasgow and William Streets, Huntly, from 2pm to 7pm.**

Representatives from NZTA and our design consultants will be available at the information day to explain various aspects of the design.

Attending the information day will provide you with an opportunity to view the proposed Huntly Section design (including the identified alternative preferred alignment changes), ask questions, and to provide the design team with your feedback.



Waikato Expressway Designated Huntly Section Alignment and Alternative Preferred Alignment

Quick Facts

The Huntly Section alignment was defined and approved by Designation in the Waikato District Plan in 2008.

LOCATION:	The Huntly Section commences at the southern end of the already completed Ohinewai Section, approximately 500m north of Frost Road, and passes to the eastern side of Huntly township before continuing through the Taupiri Range to meet the Ngaruawahia Section at Gordonton Road.
LENGTH:	15.2 kilometres.
EXPRESSWAY DESIGN:	Two traffic lanes in each direction (four lanes total) divided by a central barrier.
SPEED LIMIT:	100 kmph.
MAXIMUM EXPRESSWAY GRADIENT:	The designated alignment has a maximum road gradient of 6.0%. The Alternative Preferred Alignment has a maximum road gradient of 3.5%.
INTERCHANGES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntly North Interchange - Northbound on-ramp from Huntly and southbound off-ramp to Huntly. • Gordonton Road Interchange - Northbound and southbound on-ramps and off-ramps will provide full connectivity to the Waikato Expressway. • Investigations are underway into a possible additional interchange to provide connectivity to Huntly via Kimihia Road.
LOCAL ROAD OVERBRIDGES:	Ralph Road, McVie Road, Orini Road and Waring Road.
PERMANENT LOCAL ROAD CLOSURES:	Frost Road, Fisher Road and Kimihia Road.
PROVISION FOR CYCLING:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst cycling will be legal on the Expressway, cyclists will be encouraged to use the old State Highway 1 route through Huntly which will include appropriate improvements. • If a tunnel is constructed through the Taupiri Range then cycling will be prohibited through the tunnel.
EXPECTED BUILD PERIOD:	2015 - 2019.
ESTIMATED VALUE:	\$579 million.

Environment and Historic Features



Kahikatea Tree



'Natural State' Watercourse



Lake Kimihia



Banded kokopu



Wetland



Rua's House

The second stage investigation and design phase now underway has involved detailed environmental and historic investigations to determine significant sites, features, flora and fauna along the Huntly Section alignment.

Points of note include:

- There is a wide diversity of endemic, native and exotic birds, of which six are listed as threatened or nationally endangered. Notable species include the Australian bittern, North Island fernbird, Spotless crane, Pied shag, Little black shag, Pied stilt and Bellbird.
- There are also common but protected native Copper skink.
- Native long-tailed bats inhabit the wetland and stream margins in the Mangawara Stream to Gordonton Road area.
- Native communities of fish and shellfish listed as threatened include the Longfin eel, Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Black mudfish and freshwater mussel.
- The Taupiri Scientific Reserve is noted in the Waikato District Plan as a landscape policy area and a number of streams and watercourses are classified 'Natural State' and 'Indigenous Fishery Habitat' in the Waikato Regional Plan.
- Two Department of Conservation reserves. The 111ha Lake Kimihia Wildlife Management Reserve and the 666ha Taupiri Scientific Reserve.
- The Expressway alignment does not affect any threatened plant species. Isolated areas of relic native bush and trees will however require removal.
- A notable kahikatea tree (height 35m, girth 7.9m) on the southern slopes of the Taupiri Range (within the Graham farm) is registered in the Waikato District Plan.
- The Expressway alignment affects approximately 25 hectares of wetland, including 15 hectares of wetland classified as nationally or regionally significant.
- A recorded historic cultural site, Rua's House, on the northern bank of the Mangawara Stream.

The protection, enhancement and/or mitigation of these and other environmental and historic features is an important consideration in the investigation and design of the Huntly Section of the Waikato Expressway.

Integration of the Huntly Section with Local Roads

An important part of the investigation and design phase is the integration of the Huntly Section with local roads crossed by the Expressway. The roads directly affected by the Huntly Section are:

Frost and Kimihia Roads: These roads are currently unformed at the location they are crossed by the Expressway. These roads will be legally closed.

Fisher Road: It is proposed to close the part of Fisher Road that the Expressway will pass through, and to change Fisher Road into a cul-de-sac either side of the Huntly Section.

Ralph, McVie, Orini, Waring and Gordonton Roads: New bridges will be constructed so that each of these roads will pass over the Expressway. No access will be provided to the Expressway from any of these roads.

Stokes Road: The Designation corridor passes over the existing intersection of Stokes Road and Orini Road. A small diversion of the northern end of Stokes Road to the east of its current position and under the eastern abutment of the new Orini Road bridge will be necessary.



Artist's impression (looking north) of the Orini Road bridge and Stokes Road realignment.

What Happens Next?

Now:	Community provides feedback
August 2011:	Design Consultants complete their report on alignment options
August - November 2011:	NZTA review the Design Consultants report
November - December 2011:	Public Information Update Day. Community provides feedback
Early 2012:	Notice of requirement for any alteration to the Designation and resource consent applications prepared and lodged by NZTA. Submissions in support of or opposition to these applications can be made at this time
Mid 2012:	Hearing of the notice of requirement and resource consent applications
2014:	Tendering for design and construction
2015:	Construction starts
2019:	Huntly Section complete



For more information

For further information online visit:
www.nzta.govt.nz/rons
www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/waikato-expressway
www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/huntly

Contact Details

For enquiries or information regarding the Huntly Section of the Waikato Expressway contact:

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