

Cambridge to Piarere expressway project

The SH1 Cambridge to Piarere expressway (a Road of National Significance) will improve safety, travel time reliability, and boost the region's economic growth.

It's a 16km long 4-lane expressway, which will run from the southern end of the Waikato Expressway through to the SH1/SH29 roundabout at Piarere.

It will be designed for 110km/h speed, with median separation, side barriers, and no access from local roads.

While the final design hasn't been finalised, it is proposed that the expressway will include a new interchange at Karāpiro Road. In addition to the interchange there are 4 other bridges - 3 over existing gullies and 1 overbridge providing access to a realigned local road at Tunakawa Road. Local roads will be extended from near the existing end of the Cambridge section of the Waikato Expressway to the proposed Karāpiro Interchange.

We are working on consenting, property acquisition and design and we expect construction to start in late 2026*. Construction is expected to take approximately 6-7 years.

Timeframes

December 2024

Consent applications lodged

February 2025

Expert consenting panel appointed

Mid-late 2025

Decisions on consents and Notices of Requirements due

Mid-late 2025

Geotechnical investigation and tender design progressed*

By mid-2026

First contract awarded for construction*

Late 2026

Start of first construction phase

* Subject to a range of supporting activities, including funding, consents, permits, archaeological authorities and designations, and completing property acquisition.

