



SH1 LOOP ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

In July 2016 the Transport Agency hosted public information days at Otaika Hall to talk about proposed intersection improvements on SH1 at Loop Road and Portland Road. We also met with residents, businesses and community groups to understand some of the challenges for the local communities of Otaika and Portland. We took what we learned from these conversations and identified a preferred solution. This project update is to share our progress.

BACKGROUND

Loop Road is the southern portion of an 'inland freight route', and crosses SH1 south of Whangarei. The intersection with the state highway is a critical connection for the Northland forestry industry and logging trucks travelling to and from Northport at Marsden Point.

THE CHALLENGE

Approximately 19,000 vehicles per day use this section of the state highway. A high percentage of this is heavy freight traffic (13%), including a high number of logging

trucks. With increasing traffic volumes in a high speed environment, there is a growing safety risk and the potential for significant delays for freight traffic at this location.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

Over the last 18 months we have consulted with community, key stakeholders and property owners developing the options, and selected the preferred solution for this intersection. Now we are finalising the detailed design and preparing to lodge our statutory applications.

NORTHLAND INLAND FREIGHT ROUTE



THE SOLUTION FOR LOOP ROAD

Investigation and consultation identified that the new connection between State Highway 15 (Loop Road North) and State Highway 1 will be a roundabout. The new single lane roundabout will significantly improve safety and freight efficiency on SH1, particularly for vehicles exiting from Loop Road North.

Connecting SH15 to SH1 at Loop Road (North) redirects traffic away from Otaika Valley School, one-way bridges and the residential area of Loop Road. It also avoids the flood prone areas of Loop Road.

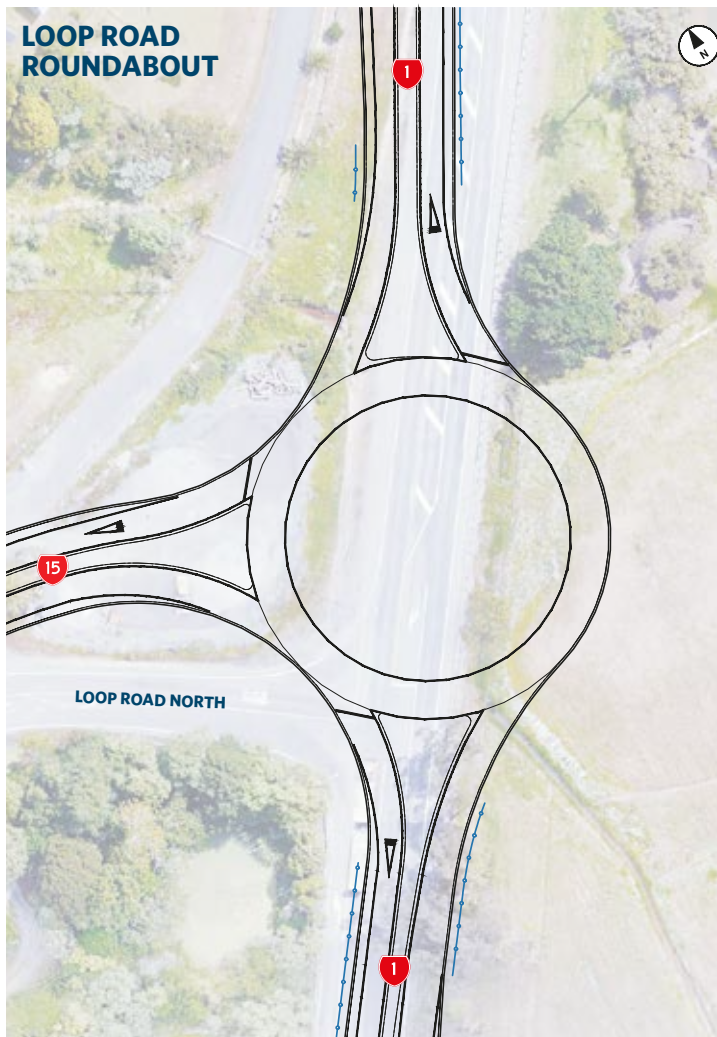
We are also planning on permanently closing the intersection of Loop Road (South) and SH1 to improve safety on the highway by removing conflicting turning movements. This will also remove heavy vehicles from the southern end of Loop Road which will significantly reduce the amount of traffic passing Otaika Valley School and residential properties on Loop Road.

The project will also provide a safer intersection with improved turning facilities at Portland Road. The improved intersection

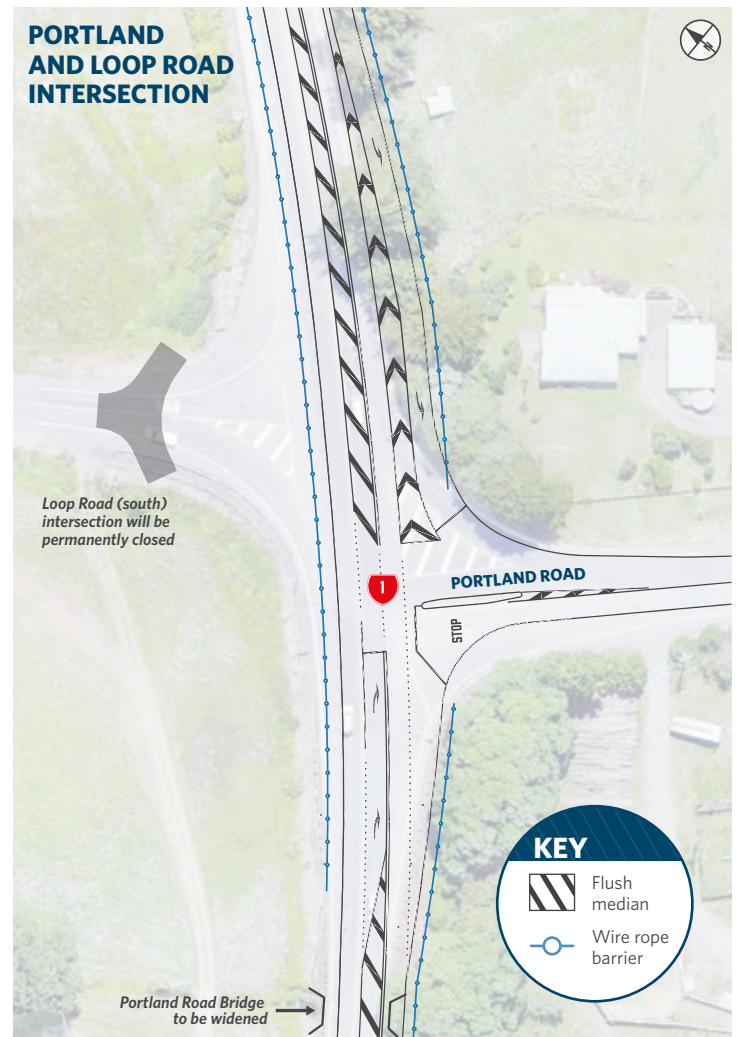
will include widening to support safe right turns into Portland Road and a left turn slip lane into Portland Road. The realigned intersection will improve visibility for drivers from Portland Road entering and exiting SH1.

The roundabout intersection at SH1 Loop Road (North) will provide a safe, efficient and resilient connection with SH15.

Improvements to the intersection at Portland Road and Loop Road (South) will ensure community members, visitors and freight travel safely across the state highway network south of Whāngarei.



Artist impression for communication purposes



WHAT'S NEXT

We are expecting to lodge our statutory applications with the Whangarei District Council and Northland Regional Council very soon. We are continuing to engage with affected property owners to ensure the best outcomes for all parties. We are also working to identify the contractor that will deliver the works.

We will continue to keep you updated as we make progress.

CONTACT US:

To get in touch with the SH1 Loop Road Improvements project team, please email us at northlandproject@nzta.govt.nz.

To stay in touch with the project, sign up to receive updates on our website www.nzta.govt.nz/loop-road

For all state highway information, please contact 0800 44 44 49.