



Whangārei to Port Marsden Highway Safety Improvements

He pānui | Project update



You may remember in 2020 we asked the community about the section of SH1 between Whangārei and Port Marsden Highway and received lots of feedback about safety.

Although the government decided not to proceed with four-laning at this point, we are committed to major safety upgrades to help everyone get where they're going safely. The feedback we've previously received from you is helping us to develop this safety improvements project further.

The SH1 Whangārei to Port Marsden Highway Safety Improvements project aims to make the road safer and more forgiving of human error to help prevent further crashes or reduce the impact of crashes and ensure people get to their destination safely.

We now want to share some of the things we know about safety along this stretch of the state highway and ensure we capture any feedback we may have missed during earlier rounds of consultation. We also want to hear from people who may have recently moved to Northland who may not be aware of the NZ Upgrade Programme's Northland Package.

Road to Zero

Across New Zealand we have set an ambitious goal for road safety and safety improvements. This project aligns with Road to Zero, New Zealand's road safety strategy, and adopts Vision Zero, a vision for Aotearoa where no-one is killed or seriously injured in road crashes, and where no death or serious injury while travelling on our roads is acceptable.



Whakaputahia ō whakaaro | Share your thoughts

Scan the QR or visit the website www.nzta.govt.nz/w2pmh-safety-improvements to have your say. Feedback is open until Sunday 28 November.

Te kaupapa project background

State Highway 1 between Whangārei and Port Marsden Highway is a critical route for Northland. Between 13,000 and 25,000 vehicles use the road each day.

The route has high traffic volumes and in places it's windy, steep and difficult to safely turn into driveways and local roads.

In the past 10 years, 22 people have lost their lives and 73 people have been seriously injured in crashes along this stretch of highway.

Most of the crashes have been caused either by head-on collisions or by people turning onto or off the highway. While people can make mistakes while driving, we believe no one should have to pay with their life.

The SH1 Whangārei to Port Marsden Highway Safety Improvements project aims to make the road safer and more forgiving of human error to help prevent further crashes or reduce the impact of crashes and ensure people get to their destination safely.

It is part of a wider investment across road and rail in Northland funded by the government's New Zealand Upgrade Programme and aims to save lives, transport goods more efficiently and improve climate change outcomes.

Ngā kōrero kua mōhiotia nei e mātou here's what we know about safety

In the past 10 years, 22 people have died, and 73 people have been seriously injured on SH1 between Whangārei and Port Marsden Highway.

The maps included in this newsletter outline where and how those crashes have occurred. These statistics also support some of the community feedback we have already received about safety on this stretch of SH1. Community feedback has also provided us with valuable insights into high risk areas where non-reported crashes, including regular 'near-miss' events have occurred.

To check out more of the feedback we've received and make any additions, please scan the QR code on the front of this newsletter or visit: www.nzta.govt.nz/w2pmh-safety-improvements

What happens to the four-laning project?

The Whangārei to Port Marsden Highway four-laning project will not continue as part of the NZ Upgrade Programme.

The government has asked Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail to implement a new option that focuses on safety improvements along the existing state highway, construction of a new rail line link to Northport and rail improvements north of Whangārei.

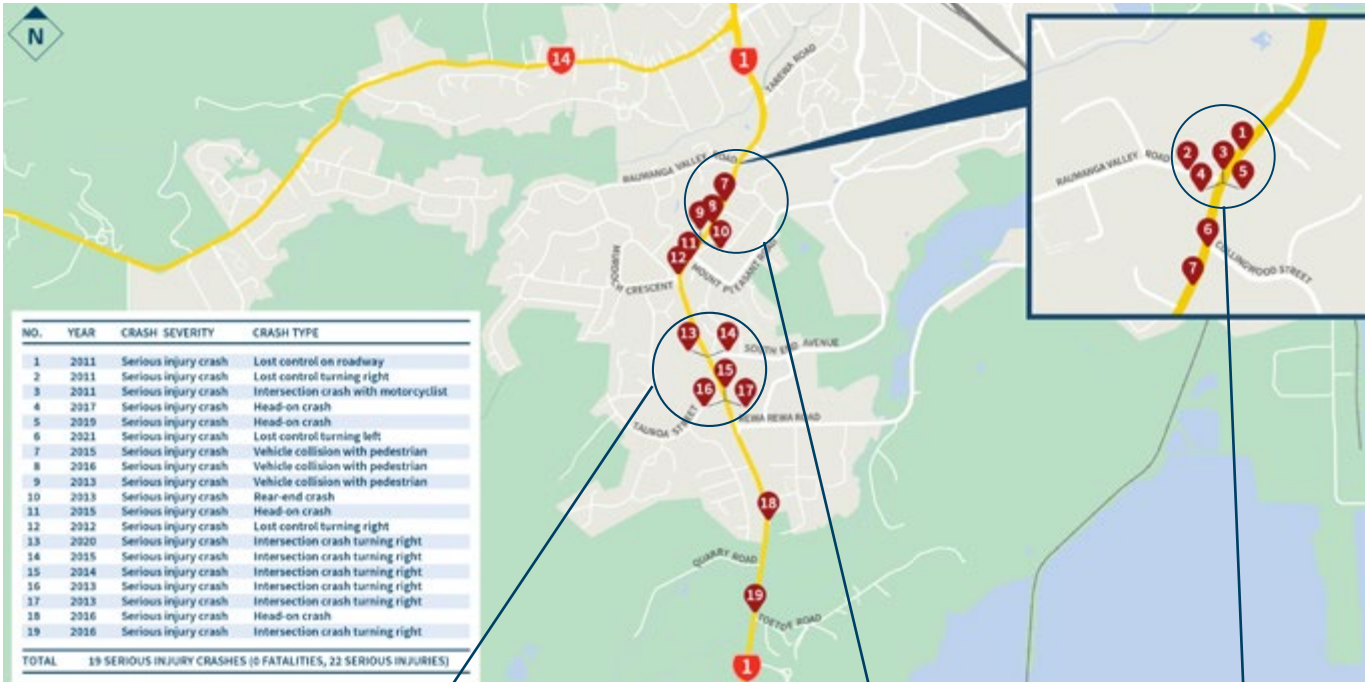
We recognise State Highway 1 as a strategic route and further changes in the future will be required to meet the demands of the Northland region.

Any future changes will require funding to complete a detailed business case before proceeding to route protection (land designation and consents) and construction.

At this point we are unable to confirm a timeframe for securing funding via the National Land Transport Fund to progress the project through to route protection and it is unlikely this will occur within the next three years.



Tarewa Road to Toetoe Road in urban Whangārei



Southend Avenue/Tauroa Road intersections

Over the past 10 years, there's been five crashes resulting in six serious injuries at these intersections. All these crashes happened during right turning movements. Community feedback has already highlighted that right turns at these intersections are dangerous due to the volume and speed of vehicles travelling in this area.

'This is an extremely dangerous area for turning right out on to the highway. It should be turn left only!'

Crossing the road at Otaika shops

Around the pedestrian crossing to the Otaika shops, four crashes have resulted in four serious injuries over the past 10 years - three of those involved pedestrians.

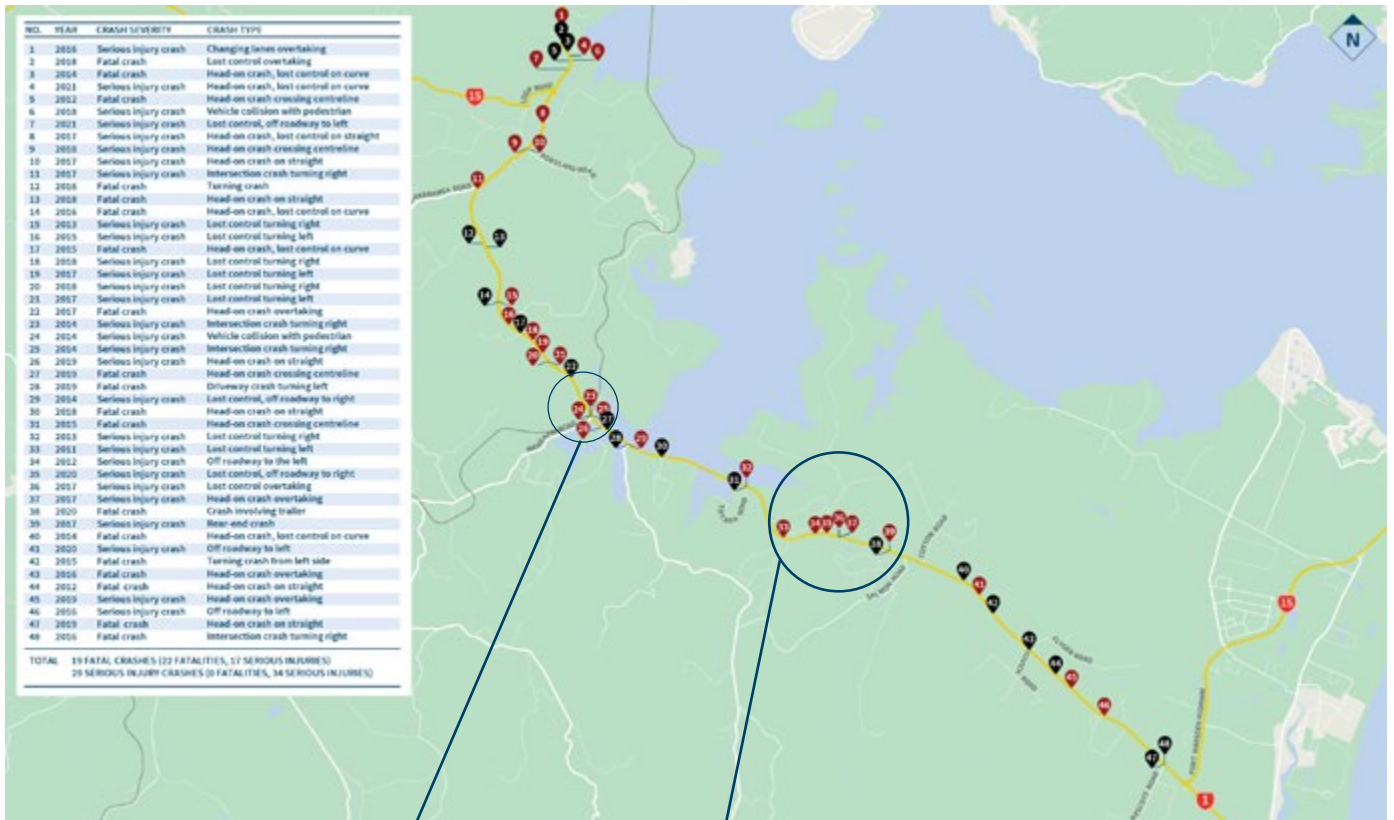
We also know there have been more minor crashes and near misses which make whanau and tamariki feel unsafe when crossing here.

'Safety at this site has always been a concern. The safety issue is when people have to cross the road to either go to the doctors, or to go to the shops or pharmacy.'

Raumanga Valley Road intersection

At Raumanga Valley Road intersection, there have been five crashes in the past 10 years resulting in six serious injuries. Two of these crashes happened during turning movements. We already know from community feedback that improvements are needed at this intersection to make turning movements safer.

Toetoe Road to Port Marsden Highway in rural corridor



Mangapai Road intersection

This busy intersection has seen one fatality and six serious injuries in the past 10 years. The crashes in this area have been caused either by turning movements or head-on crashes.

'This is a busy intersection for Mangapai and wider community residents, as well as logging trucks, milk tankers, stock trucks and tourists. The road is regularly used for detours after accidents on the highway. We need safe entry and exit options.'

SH1 between Totara Road and Hewlett Road

Poor visibility, sharp bends, high speeds and turning movements have led to seven serious crashes (two fatal) over the past 10 years on SH1 near Hewlett Road. With a growing volume of vehicles travelling on this section of SH1, including school buses, the community has noted this area as a major safety concern.

'Safety improvements to the Hewlett Road intersection are several years overdue. It is getting more and more dangerous to turn in and out of, especially at school bus times.'

Access onto the state highway from other local roads and driveways

Several other local road intersections with the state highway have been highlighted as unsafe, as well as access from driveways more generally.

We know that in places, visibility is poor, there are no turning bays making turning movements difficult and unsafe especially with vehicles travelling at high speeds through the area.

Ngā hua ki te whakapai ake te huarahi what we're investigating to make the highway safer

Creating a safer and more forgiving road system is a team effort with lots of potential solutions to be considered. We're listening to community feedback on this corridor to help inform the types of solutions we're investigating to make the road safer. They will include:



Centre median safety barriers to prevent head-on crashes caused by vehicles crossing the centreline, which is how most people are killed or seriously injured on our roads. They can reduce deaths and serious injuries by up to 65%.



Intersection improvements and turnaround bays to make access on and off the state highway from local roads safer.



Edge barriers and widened shoulders to stop your vehicle before you hit something harder - like a tree, power pole or oncoming vehicle. They can reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by up to 30%. A wider sealed road shoulder provides



Walking and cycling facilities in urban Whangārei to provide more travel choice and to separate people walking and on bikes from vehicles.

room to recover if you lose control or need to take evasive action. Shoulder widening can reduce crashes by up to 35%.



Safer speeds to allow drivers more time to react to a mistake and recover control of their vehicle. We are reviewing the current speed limits on state highways across Northland, including this corridor, to make sure they are safe and appropriate for the environment.



Wider centrelines to keep drivers apart from each other. Widening the centreline means more space between you and oncoming vehicles. It is a simple and effective way to

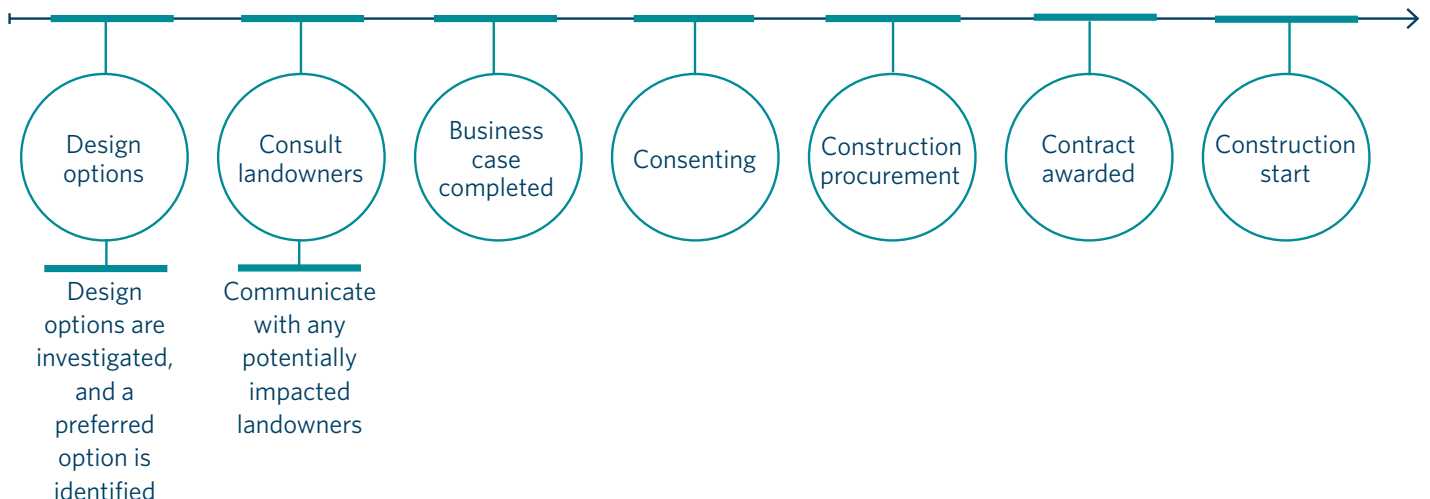
steer drivers away from each other - giving you time to react and helping prevent crashes if someone makes a mistake. More space between lanes can reduce serious crashes by up to 20%.

Earlier this year, we engaged with communities in Northland to help us get feedback and local knowledge on how the road is used and what the main concerns are. The next steps are to formally consult on any proposed speed limit changes. You can expect to hear more about this in the coming months.

We'll be able to confirm in more detail the types and locations of the improvements as the project develops.

Te Tukanga the process

Below outlines the process for the Northland Package safety improvements project. We expect to have a clearer idea of the timings for the safety improvements in the coming months.



NZ Upgrade Programme Northland Package

The NZ Upgrade Programme's Northland Package is an approximately \$700 million investment in a combination of both road and rail projects aimed to save lives, transport goods more efficiently and improve climate change outcomes. The package includes:

- State Highway 1 safety improvements (between Whangārei and Port Marsden Highway, delivered by Waka Kotahi) – this project replaces the Northern Section of the Whangārei to Wellsford safety improvements project and will now be delivered via the New Zealand Upgrade Programme
- Rail link from the North Auckland rail line to Northport and associated enabling rail works (to be delivered by KiwiRail)
- Otiria to Whangārei rail line upgrade to take 18 tonne axle loads (to be delivered by KiwiRail)

Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail are delivering the \$6.8 billion New Zealand Upgrade transport programme on behalf of the government. The investment includes a range of key transport projects across the country that will save lives, get our regions and cities moving and boost productivity in the country's growth areas.

Whangārei to Wellsford

While safety improvements along the section of SH1 between Whangārei and Port Marsden Highway are being delivered as part of the NZUP Northland Package, they're part of a wider programme of works aimed at significantly reducing the number of crashes and saving lives between Whangārei and Wellsford. Similar safety interventions are being investigated along this road corridor including barrier systems, wide centrelines and better signage.



Whakapā mai contact us

You can contact the project team directly to share your thoughts and questions.

Email w2pmh@nzta.govt.nz

Website www.nzta.govt.nz/w2pmh-safety-improvements

Kei te kaha mātou ki te mahi me ō mātou hapori katoa. Ki te hiahia koe i ēnei mōhiohio i whakamāoritia ki te reo Māori, whakapā mai i konei: w2pmh@nzta.govt.nz

