

SH1 Whangārei to Wellsford Southern Safety Improvements Project

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is preparing to make safety improvements on State Highway 1 from Whangārei to Wellsford.

These safety improvements are being delivered as part of New Zealand's Road to Zero strategy which sets us on a path to achieve Vision Zero – an Aotearoa where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads. As a step towards Vision Zero, we are setting an initial target of reducing deaths and serious injuries on our roads by 40% by the year 2030.

The proposed SH1 Whangārei to Wellsford Safety Improvements Project covers 83km of SH1, connecting the Northland and Auckland regions. It aims to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured along this high-traffic corridor.

Due to the length of the SH1 Whangārei to Wellsford corridor, the project will be delivered as three separate projects – referred to as the Northern, Central and Southern projects.

The Southern project - Brynderwyn Hills to Wellsford

The SH1 Whangārei to Wellsford Southern Safety Improvements Project involves a 25km stretch of SH1 in Northland, from the south side of the Brynderwyn Hills (near the SH1/SH12 intersection) to Wellsford.

Safety treatments

Road to Zero is guided by the Safe System approach – the international gold standard in road safety. It recognises that while mistakes on the road are inevitable, deaths and serious injuries from crashes are not. The Safe System approach seeks to create a road system that makes the safety of people a priority. It does this with four guiding principles:

- 1. We promote good choices but plan for mistakes.
- 2. We design for human vulnerability.
- 3. We strengthen all parts of the road transport system.
- 4. We have a shared responsibility.









What improvements will I see?



Flexible median barriers can reduce deaths and serious injuries by up to 65%. They prevent head-on crashes which is how most people are killed or seriously injured on our roads.



Rumble strips are raised markings that make a sound when driven over. They give road users a warning when their vehicle is straying from its lane.



Safety barriers and widened shoulders stop your vehicle before you hit something hard like a tree, power pole or oncoming vehicle. A wider sealed road shoulder provides room to recover if you lose control or need to take evasive action. They can reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by up to 30%.



Wide centrelines create more space between lanes and help separate oncoming vehicles. They can reduce serious crashes by up to 20%.



Turnaround areas provide safe locations, usually on side roads, where drivers can safely turn around and change direction in the presence of flexible median barriers.

Current project status

We're in the process of contacting stakeholders, business and affected landowners about our proposed safety improvements.

This project will be delivered in stages over the next few years. Stage two is subject to confirmation of funding.

Stage one will begin construction in late 2023 and we're in the process of planning and design for the next stage of improvements.

SH1 Whangārei to Wellsford Southern section project timeline

We're here

Investigations carried out as part of the project's detailed design and statutory requirements Stakeholders, communities and affected property owners information and engagement phase

mid to late 2023

Stage One construction to begin

late 2023

Construction of remaining stages

mid-2024

*Pending funding approval





Staged delivery

The SH1 Whangārei to Wellsford Southern project will be delivered in two stages to minimise disruption for road users. The first stage is at Topuni corner and north of Ross Road.

