

2 Hawke's Bay Expressway project overview

May 2025

The Hawke's Bay Expressway project is included in the government's Roads of National Significance (RoNS) programme, outlined as a priority in the 2024-27 Government Policy Statement on Land Transport. The project aims to enhance capacity, reduce travel time, and improve reliability and safety.

Supporting economic growth and productivity

SH2 Hawke's Bay Expressway is a 27km existing two-lane corridor with land designated for future road construction alongside it. It is the region's lifeline route, connecting people to the regional hospital and airport. It forms part of the national freight corridor, linking Napier Port to the wider central North Island. The expressway carries up to 29,000 vehicles a day. Due to the region's growing population and economy, the expressway is reaching capacity in the central section at peak times.

The project targets the busiest section of the expressway with the most problematic intersections – the 17.5km stretch between Prebensen Drive and York Road.

Focusing investment on the Prebensen Drive to York Road area will contribute to the region's economic growth and significantly enhance connectivity, and provide strong value for money within the project's funding envelope.

We are currently working on Section 1 of the project, which spans from Taradale Road to Pākōwhai Road (excluding the intersections).

While we focus on delivering this initial part, we are also planning the next phase of the project. This includes completing an investment case for the rest of the expressway corridor. The investment case will propose the best transport solution that meets the need and offers maximum value for money. In August, a decision will be made on whether to move forward with the design and pre-implementation stages.

