
Public Information Session

July/August 2018

Welcome to the public information session for the Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Gorge Replacement Route Project. We are pleased to provide you with the latest information as we continue our work to construct a safe, resilient and efficient replacement for the closed State Highway 3 through the Manawatū Gorge.

After extensive investigation and consultation, the NZ Transport Agency has selected a route that provides a safe and resilient highway and meets the needs of local communities, businesses and all road users over the long term. We are now entering the next stage of the project – understanding environmental and cultural features in the area, seeking consents and procuring the designer/constructor for the detailed design and construction.

Our project now also has a new name – Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Gorge Replacement Route Project. Te Ahu a Turanga is a site of spiritual, cultural and historical significance located near the route of the new transport corridor high in the Ruahine Ranges.

The information provided here is to update the wider community on the project and encourage you to provide feedback – please fill in the enclosed form, or send us your comments to manawatugorge@nzta.govt.nz.

Through our investigation we will identify environmental features within the corridor. Each of these will be considered during the design and consenting process. During construction, and once the new road is complete, the NZ Transport Agency is committed to the ongoing environmental protection of our streams, flora and fauna.





ASHHURST

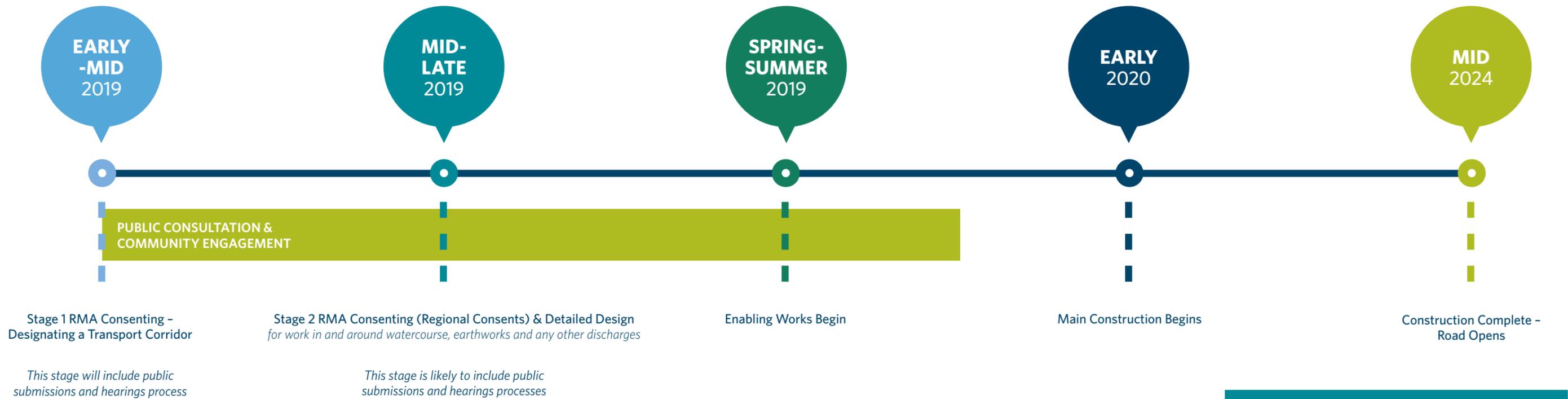
WOODVILLE

↙ PALMERSTON NORTH

This map shows the roading corridor in which we will build the new SH3 connection.

We are now undertaking further investigations to enable us to define the corridor accurately for the first stage of consenting. We are also developing a design framework which will ensure the detailed design of the transport corridor meets project, iwi, community and stakeholder objectives. The work is expected to be well advanced later in the year, and we will again be seeking your feedback at that point.

PROJECT TIMELINE



* This timeline is based on current best estimates based on the current approach and previous projects. This does not include areas of risk such as consenting appeals.



Ensuring the ecological stability of our precious land

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Through our investigation we will identify environmental features within the corridor. Each of these will be considered during the design and consenting process. During construction, and once the new road is complete, the environmental protection of our streams, flora and fauna will be an important part of the design and construction.

How do we do this? We will work with our experts to understand how the environment behaves and how we can manage our construction work to either avoid or manage any long term effects. We are developing design principles and a framework that will be used to prepare a Construction and Environmental Management Plan. This plan is a toolbox of methods to manage construction effects.

Although most of the land used for the new road has been cleared and converted for various purposes, there are some remnant pockets of indigenous vegetation, in particular at the western end of the Manawatū Gorge.

We will do a detailed investigation of each area to develop our understanding of the specific eco systems and how any effects can be avoided, minimised and/or mitigated. If we do affect these systems, then we will mitigate those effects and how we do this will be confirmed during the second stage of consenting. Examples of mitigation include planting that could include indigenous forest, wetland restoration and riparian planting to enhance the existing features of the area.

The NZ Transport Agency is interested in your knowledge of the area, so as part of your feedback please make comment on areas you believe have environmental and cultural importance.



New Zealand Government

You can find more detail on the project, including detailed information on the consenting process, at our website.

If you have any questions or want to give us feedback, or want to subscribe to our newsletter, please drop us a line at manawatugorge@nzta.govt.nz. Or you can ring us on **0800 740 560**.