

Hamilton Southern Links Major project report

November 2025

Project overview

The Hamilton Southern Links project is part of the government's wider Roads of National Significance programme and is included in the [Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024](#).

Hamilton's growing population needs better, safer transport connections to access new houses and jobs. The Waikato region also plays a critical role as a freight supply and distribution hub.

The State Highway 1 (SH1) Waikato Expressway forms the backbone of the Waikato's transport networks. The Hamilton Southern Links project will complete the missing connection between SH1C in western Hamilton and SH1. This will unlock housing and industrial development in the south, improve access to the airport and ease congestion on existing networks.

Announcements to date

- » 2016 — route secured through designation
- » June 2024 — included in the [Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024](#)
- » October 2025 — [funding to progress work on design, consenting and significant site investigations](#)

More information on the project can be found [here](#).

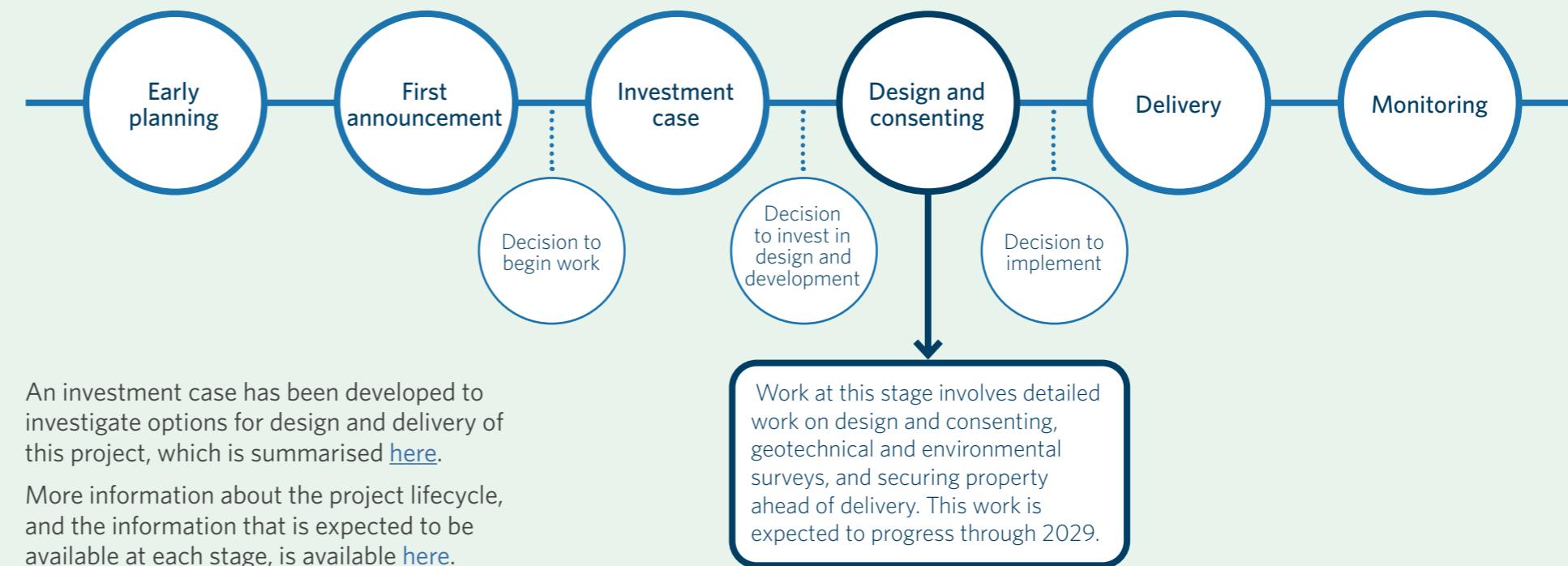
Next steps

The investment case proposes a staged implementation approach. Next steps include further design, consenting and site investigations.

Timing and funding for construction have not been confirmed.

We keep this report updated with the latest information as the project evolves. This report was last updated in November 2025.

Project lifecycle — where we're at



Cost information

The indicative investment envelope to design, consent and deliver this project is \$2.3-2.7 billion. We expect the investment envelope to narrow as work is undertaken to increase cost certainty. Cost information will be refined through further work on design, consents and options for staged delivery.

Funding

The funding source for work to develop this project is the National Land Transport Fund. Funding of \$100 million has been approved to progress design, consenting and significant site investigations work. Timing and funding for project delivery has yet to be confirmed.

The investment case work explored the suitability of a range of alternative funding options such as tolling, Infrastructure Funding and Financing levy, developer contributions and co-investment from key stakeholders such as councils.

Potential cost risks and opportunities

Key factors that may cause cost information to change are:

- » detailed design decisions, including in relation to intersections/interchanges and structures,
- » project phasing and timing,
- » future escalation of labour costs and materials,
- » consenting requirements and conditions, and any changes to these,
- » market capacity and capability,
- » funding and/or financing options.