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Contractor's newsletter

Fulton Hogan/HEB Joint Venture



Inspiring women into infrastructure with Connexis

The Takitimu North Link project welcomed 27 young women and teachers from four Western Bay schools to site in June as part of an initiative to inspire more women into careers in infrastructure.

The girls had the opportunity to hear from our wahine (women) working on the project, who shared their experiences on a variety of career options in construction including engineering, environmental, health and safety, truck driving, and project management.

Students from Bethlehem College, Katikati College, Papamoa College, and Tauranga Girls' College took part in this event as part of the nationwide Connexis Girls with Hi-Vis initiative to positively influence and support women in the infrastructure industry.



A few snaps from the day

With eight bridges on the project we thought a bridge building competition would be a great opportunity to get creative. The girls were given 20 minutes and a roll of tin foil to create a bridge with the best height, length and stability. The competition was judged by two of our wahine engineers who are managing the construction of some of the bridges on the project.

"We would like to say a HUGE thanks for Friday. Our girls were absolutely buzzing about the day and were excited about the industry opportunities."

Liz Coster, Future Pathways Coordinator, Tauranga Girls College



Community drop-in event

Many thanks to everyone from Tauranga and the western Bay who visited our community drop-in at the Bethlehem Hall in May. It was great to see so many of you and to discuss the project with you.

We have captured some of the many questions asked - more are listed online at nzta.govt.nz/takitimunorth

Q&A

Q. How will the Cambridge Road Overbridge be built?

A. The location of the new bridge is in the area of earthworks next to the current Harrison Road, alongside Cambridge Road (see photo). The bridge will be constructed using a top-down construction method, this means the bridge is built on the current ground alignment and then we excavate underneath for the new road. Preparation work for the Cambridge Road Overbridge is underway and a reduced speed limit of 30km/h in place while construction takes place. The bridge will be constructed just west of Cambridge Road which will keep traffic impacts to a minimum in this area.



Q. Will the road be tolled?

A. Every time a new state highway is built in New Zealand Waka Kotahi carries out an assessment to see if it meets the criteria to be tolled and the Takitimu North Link is no different.

Government funding has been provided for the planning and construction of Takitimu North Link Stage One. The ongoing costs of maintaining and operating the road need to be found from other funding sources.

A tolling assessment is in progress and expected to be completed this year. Depending on the outcome, the Waka Kotahi Board may recommend tolling to the Minister of Transport and seek permission to consult with the public on the proposal. If tolling is considered a feasible option public consultation will take place in 2023.

Tolling assessments are designed to apply many perspectives to the complex issue of determining tolling feasibility, including how a potential toll road might interact with the wider transport network.

For Takitimu North Link, this will include how a tolled expressway may interact with the Takitimu Drive Toll Road, consider tolling across both stages of the project, where toll gantries might be located and cost effectiveness and benefits to road users. It will also consider the impact on the existing route through Te Puna and Bethlehem.

Q. What will the Fifteenth Ave connection be like?

A. This is a one-lane bridge, with entry at Fifteenth Ave onto SH29 / Takitimu Drive Toll Road. The bridge will be constructed offline and will have minimal effects on the current traffic in this area, construction is due to start 2024.

Photo diary [CAPTURED JUNE 2022]

Six months into the construction phase of the Takitimu North Link project we are happy to share a special photo diary update with new aerial shots across main work sites. We know that a lot of the work underway is not visible to the people in the community, we hope you enjoy this birds eye view of the Bay of Plenty's most significant project to date.



◀ Wairoa Valley East

In and around rain events that make this area very wet, we continue to construct the haul road from the bottom of Harrison Road towards the Wairoa River.



◀ Wairoa River Temporary Staging Bridge

The sheet piles on the edge of the river have been installed and we are now constructing the crane pads (where the darker grey gridded lines are in two areas to the left of the crane and digger). In the background you can see all of the environmental controls that have been installed to date which have been very effective in the recent rain events.



▲ Wairoa Road Overbridge

We have installed five of the 15 piles for this bridge on the northern abutment, the deepest of these has been driven down to a depth of 25 metres. These are the steel 'tubes' you see on the left of the photo. In the middle you can see the diversion road with the Wairoa Valley in the background.

Te Mete Haul Road ▶

This photo gives a good idea as to where the new road will be. In the background of this photo you can see the earthworks from the Wairoa Valley area. We are constructing a haul road in this area, completing environmental controls, continuing archaeological investigations, and underway with construction of the new road for the residents of the current Te Mete Road.





Te Rangituanehu / ▲ Minden Gully

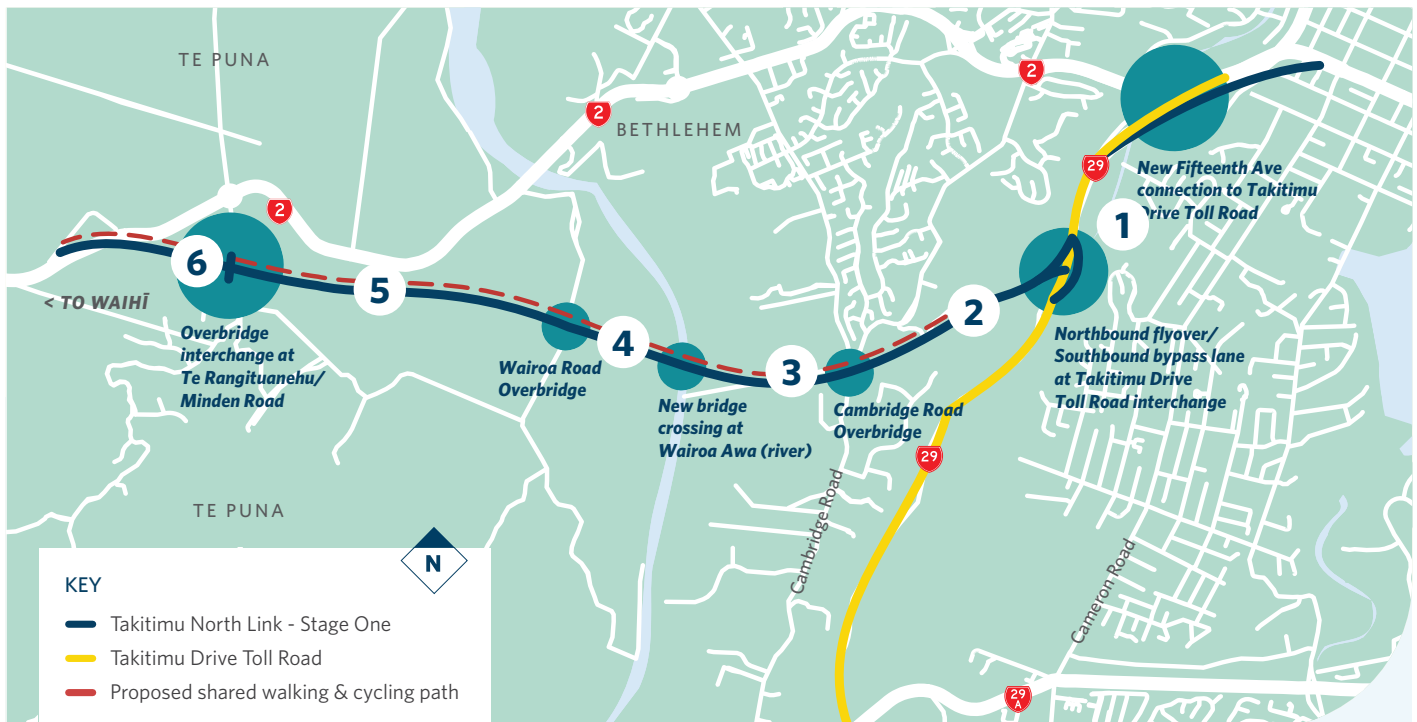
Across this gully is where the Te Rangituanehu / Minden Interchange will be constructed. We have now completed the vegetation clearance and environmental controls are being installed. In the background you can see the earthworks of where the new Takitimu North Link road will be constructed.

◀ Project Site Office - Minden Gully

We are on track to shift into our new site office in Te Puna in August. The new office will have some drop-in times for the public to visit with any questions. More details of this will be shared in our next newsletter. Erosion settlement controls are in place and you can see where the vegetation clearance has occurred where the new road will be.



Construction Snapshot: What's happening on-site



1. SH29 / Takitimu Drive Toll Road

- Reduced speed limit to 80km/h
- Services relocation works
- Environmental controls
- Kopurererua Valley Pathway – a permanent closure to a section of this path remains in place. Another section of the pathway on the eastern side is temporarily closed until approximately September while power services are relocated. A detour is in place

2. Smiths Farm/ Richard Way

- Construction of a haul road from SH29 / Takitimu Drive Toll Road
- Service upgrade works
- Archaeology investigations on the Smith's Farm side

3. Cambridge Road / Harrison Road

- Earthworks for the new Harrison Road
- Services relocations
- Crane pad construction for the Cambridge Road Overbridge

4. Wairoa Road and Valley

- Wairoa Road Overbridge construction is underway and will continue until mid-2023. So far we have installed five piles of the 15
- Stop/Go traffic management is in place for trucks crossing Wairoa Road
- Construction of the Wairoa River staging bridge has started and will take approximately 10 weeks to build. This is a temporary bridge providing access for construction vehicles across the site

5. Te Mete Road Area

- Vegetation clearance
- Archaeology investigation work continues
- Services relocation works
- Construction of the temporary new access road for Te Mete Road residents

6. Te Rangituanehu / Minden Road Area

- Crane pad construction for the Te Rangituanehu / Minden Gully Interchange - construction of the bridges will start in August 2022
- Construction continues for the new project site office
- Environmental controls continue

TRAFFIC UPDATES

Temporary reduced speed limits are in place at several work sites

- 30km/h on Cambridge Road, Wairoa Road and Minden Road
- 80km/h on SH29 / Takitimu Drive Toll Road while service relocation work takes place

Taking care of the whenua

Ensuring the whenua (land) is respected and kept safe is a key focus for our environmental team, who are now planning the erosion settlement controls for the next construction season. 'Construction season' is when our earthworks season begins, in the drier months between 15th September and 30th April each year, and allows us to safely move bulk dirt. This is the time when you will see lots of truck movements with large diggers and other plant operating.

What we've been up to

- Sediment Retention Ponds (SRPs) - Six constructed and 13 remaining to be constructed
- Decanting Earth Bunds (DEBs) - 16 installed on site and approximately 20 remaining to be constructed.
- Earthworks



50,000 m³ earth moved to date



400,000m³ to be moved next season



3,000,000m³ earth to move in total

Over this winter season, where the weather allows, we are undertaking work with a focus on progressive stabilisation, archaeological investigations, hydro-seeding and setting the site up for success this coming bulk earthworks season.



To support earthworks we have installed 1km of silt fencing to date. A silt fence is a sediment control installed in smaller earthworks areas where the larger SRPs and DEBs are not needed, or cannot fit due to space requirements. We are currently looking at ways to recycle our silt fence material after we have finished using it.



For more information

Read more and sign up for updates about the project at: nzta.govt.nz/takitimunorth

Contractors Fulton Hogan/HEB Joint Venture are designing and constructing the project, with BBO the principal's advisor. The design of Takitimu North Link is being delivered by Beca, with Holmes Consultancy Limited Partnership as a subconsultant.

Takitimu North Link Stage One Project Team



phone 0800 865 776



email info@takitimunorthlink.co.nz



website nzta.govt.nz/takitimunorth



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