

2023-24 National Land Transport Fund Annual Report Regional Summaries

Northland

Northland's economy relies on primary industry. Investment during 2023-24 in the land transport system was targeted at helping create a safe, resilient network to get goods to export markets.

Key regional highlights during the year included:

- The completion of recovery work on SH1 Brynderwyn Hills following significant damage from severe weather events in early 2023. A 7-day-a-week work programme at multiple sites saw this major freight and tourist route re-open quickly and safely to restore Northland's connectivity with Auckland and further south.
- The completion of a new two-lane bridge and roundabout at the intersection of SH10 and Whangaroa Road (Kaeo Bridge) improved resilience, safety and traffic flow as well as supporting tourism and future economic development.
- Improvements on SH1 at the Loop Road intersection continued and will ultimately make this major freight link safer and easier to use.
- The successful delivery of a \$175m maintenance and renewals programme on state highways and local roads to support freight and tourism connections.
- Access to easier and faster practical driver testing, helping Northlanders access better employment opportunities.

Auckland

Investment in Auckland's land transport system during 2023-24 focussed on supporting population growth and the development of new communities with better access to more sustainable travel choices.

Key regional highlights during the year included:

- The opening of the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway, providing a safer, more resilient, and reliable transport link between Auckland and Northland.
- The completion of the Auckland Northern Corridor making travel on the North Shore safer, more efficient, and reliable, and the installation of a walking and cycling path and extension to the Northern Busway, offered better travel options.
- Further progress was made on the SH1 Papakura to Bombay project. Stage 1 Papakura to Drury improvements, a Road of Regional Significance, saw the completion of an additional motorway lane in each direction, along with a shared walking and cycling path.
- The successful delivery of a \$576m maintenance and renewals programme on state highways and local roads to support safety, reliability, and resilience.
- The new Eastern Busway provided high-frequency bus services to connect people from Botany, Pakuranga, and the surrounding suburbs with the rail network in Panmure, offering transport choices to commuters and helping to reduce congestion.

- A \$1.5b investment in public transport giving people more travel options and helping to reduce congestion.

Waikato

Investment in the Waikato region during 2023-24 aimed to support the provision of a safe, accessible land transport system that is both reliable and resilient to move people and goods along inter-regional routes.

Key regional highlights during the year included:

- The beginning of work to bring the Ngāruawāhia section of the Waikato Expressway to the required standard for a 110kmh speed limit, further improving safety and reliability and reducing travel times and congestion on this important route between Waikato and Auckland.
- The completion of bridge replacement work on SH25A Taparahi, between Kōpū and Hikuai, reconnecting the road after the effects of Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle and improving the road's resilience and reliability.
- The replacement of the Mangawhero Stream Bridge and highway realignment on SH27, protecting the bridge from erosion and making it safer and more resilient.
- The start of construction on a roundabout at the intersection of SH1 and SH29 at Piarere, a Road of Regional Significance, which will make this section of state highway safer and more efficient.
- A \$20m investment to continue the Te Huia inter-regional rail service between Hamilton and Auckland, with \$2m to introduce an off-peak service, offering residents and visitors more travel choices.
- We invested \$256m in maintenance and renewals providing safe and reliable state highways and local roads.

Bay of Plenty

Responding to high levels of population growth, while providing safe, reliable access and better travel options to connect local communities has been the aim of investment in Bay of Plenty during 2023-24.

Key regional highlights during the year included:

- Safety improvement works on SH2 Wainui to Ōpōtiki and SH33 Te Ngae Junction and Paengaroa, including shoulder widening and side barrier installation, have made these state highways safer to drive.
- The SH2/SH29A Baypark to Bayfair Link opened to traffic, improving safety by separating local traffic from the state highway and rail corridor and providing safer walking and cycling connections.
- Construction continued on Stage 1 of Takitimu North Link, a Road of National Significance. This new four-lane expressway and shared path will connect Tauranga and Te Puna, improving efficiency, safety access and making the network more resilient.
- Work on SH30 Rotorua Eastern Corridor: SH30 Te Ngae Road - Stage 2 continued, with Zones 1 and 2 completed. This project addresses connectivity and safety, while accommodating future growth and providing for more travel choices.

- Construction started on Tauriko Enabling Works (SH29), a Road of National Significance, working in partnership with Tauranga City Council to deliver the transport infrastructure that will unlock the Tauriko West growth area and improve safety at SH29/Redwood Lane and SH29/Cambridge Road intersections, support continued development of the Tauriko Business Estate, and improve access to public transport, walking and cycling.
- An investment of \$203m in maintenance and renewals making our state highways and local roads safer and more reliable and improving resilience.

Gisborne

Investment for Gisborne in 2023-24 had a twin focus - the response to Cyclone Gabrielle and the resulting recovery work and supporting improved access and resilience of the road network. This investment helped the region's economy grow, and supported people to connect with health, education, and employment opportunities.

Much of the effort in this region centred on the ongoing recovery following Cyclone Gabrielle. The TREC (Transport Rebuild East Coast) alliance continued to plan, organise, and deliver much of the response and recovery work needed on the highway and rail networks in conjunction with local businesses and contractors.

Other key regional highlights during the year included:

- Working with local iwi to install better wayfinding and marae signage including flip-down tangi signs on SH35 and SH2, improving safety and visibility.
- Major repairs following Cyclone Gabrielle continued at 15 sites, with minor repairs taking place at more than 800 sites across the network.
- An extensive foam bitumen stabilisation programme on SH2 Gisborne to Waioeka Gorge, improving the resilience of this key freight route. Progress was also made updating the business case for further improvements to the road through the Waioeka Gorge to further support resilience, reliability, and safety.
- An investment of \$103m in maintenance and renewals making our state highways and local roads safer, more reliable, and resilient.

Hawke's Bay

Hawke's Bay had a twin focus in the 2023-24 year - improving safety and resilience while supporting the region's economy and forecast growth, and the response and recovery following Cyclone Gabrielle.

Key regional highlights during the year were:

- Safety was a focus area for our investment with work taking place on SH5 Napier to Taupo including the installation of roadside signage, guardrails, lining improvements and rumble strips.
- Stage 2 of the SH50 roundabout improvement programme began, with the construction of a new shared path making it easier and safer for pedestrians and cyclists to move about.
- Work progressed on Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū Tararua Highway, a new key freight route linking Napier Port and the growing distribution centres in Palmerston North which will improve network resilience and reliability.

- The trial of Tar Oil Pitch continued on SH38. Tar Oil Pitch is a by-product of the wood-pulping process and is being used on the road as an environmentally sustainable surfacing material.
- Cyclone Gabrielle recovery work included the demolition of the old Waikare Gorge Bridge, and the start of the planning and consenting process for the realignment of the road and new bridge construction that will improve resilience and connectivity.
- An investment of \$111m in maintenance and renewals making our state highways and local roads safer and more reliable and improving resilience.

Taranaki

A well-maintained, resilient, safe, and reliable land transport system was the focus of investment in Taranaki for 2023-24, supporting the region's residential and economic growth.

Key regional highlights during the year included:

- Work continued on the SH3 Te Ara o Te Ata Mt Messenger Bypass. This project will improve the safety, resilience, and reliability of a crucial freight route between Taranaki and Waikato, with a significant impact on economic growth.
- Sealing and improvements on SH43 Forgotten World Highway to make it easier and safer for people to experience this journey, with improved freight and tourism connections to the area.
- We invested \$95m in maintenance and renewals on the region's roads over 2023-24 including six pavement rebuilds, five asphalt sites and nearly 88 lane kilometres of reseals across the state highway network.
- A significant milestone was achieved on the Te Ara Tūtohu State Highway 3 (SH3) Waitara to Bell Block safety improvements project with the completion of the roundabout and pedestrian underpass at the intersection of SH3 and Princess Street, making the intersection safer for motorists and pedestrians.
- SH3 Inglewood to Midhirst was completely rebuilt as part of the maintenance programme, creating a safer and more resilient road for all users.
- Nearly 7.5kms of flexible median barriers and wide centrelines were installed as part of the SH3 New Plymouth to Hāwera safety improvements project making this road safer for people and freight.

Manawatū/Whanganui

Investment in the Manawatū/Whanganui's land transport network during 2023-24 was aimed at strengthening the region's position as an important freight hub, while also supporting the local economy, regional development, and urban growth.

Key regional highlights during the year included:

- Construction continued on the Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū Tararua Highway with good progress being made on the Parahaki Bridge and the lower subbase of pavement layers which were close to completion. This new route will provide a safe, resilient, and efficient route between Woodville and Ashhurst, helping to keep people and goods moving.
- Repairs on SH4 Whanganui to Raetihi were completed, including construction of three new retaining walls and improved drainage at Te Oreore to support a temporary alignment ahead of

construction of the new permanent road. This repair work has improved connectivity and made the road safer in the meantime.

- Work was completed on the Ōtaki to Ohau safety improvement programme to create a safer, more resilient, and better-connected route between Wellington and Ōtaki. The project includes the installation of road safety barriers and turn-around facilities.
- SH1-SH3 Bulls to Sanson safety improvements were near completion by the end of the 2023-24 year. A new roundabout at the intersection of the state highway and Pukenui Road, which leads into RNZAF Base Ohakea will make this intersection safer and reduce traffic delays where traffic volumes are expected to grow.
- Other safety projects completed included the installation of flexible median barriers on stretches of SH3 between Whanganui and Bulls, a key route for locals, tourists, and freight; pedestrian lighting improvements on SH1 in Levin; and improvements to the SH3 Stewart Rd intersection in Awahuri.
- Stormwater upgrade projects were completed on SH1N at Calico Line and on SH2 at Mangatainoka to improve network resilience.
- Critical work was completed on SH1 at Utiku to build greater resilience into the network during weather events.
- An investment of \$155m in maintenance and renewals making our state highways and local roads safer and more reliable and improving resilience.

Greater Wellington

Improving the safety, reliability and resilience of the transport network and getting more people using sustainable travel options was the focus of our investment in Greater Wellington's transport network during 2023-24.

Key regional highlights during the year included:

- Delivery of the Waikanae bridge clip-on shared path, giving pedestrians and cyclists a safer way to cross the river.
- Completion of the Mackays to Peka Peka (M2PP) Revocation project, returning 13.5kms of SH1 to Kapiti District Council as a local road, following the completion of the Kapiti Expressway.
- Completion of the Petone to Melling section and the Ngā Ūranga ki Pito-One section, linking Wellington and Lower Hutt, close to reaching the halfway mark of the Te Ara Tupua walking and cycling path. This project supports safer walking and cycling and will also improve resilience by protecting the road and rail from storm damage.
- Completion of the first 'bay' section of Hutt City Council's Tupua Horo Nuku (formerly Eastern Bays Shared Path) was completed by the Te Ara Tupua Alliance. This project improves the resilience of Marine Drive with a new seawall protecting the road from damage and supports walking and cycling.
- An investment of \$274m in maintenance and renewals on the state highways and local roads, including regular overnight maintenance and slip prevention work on SH2 Remutaka Hill Road, improving the resilience of the road and keeping Wellington and the Wairarapa connected.
- Progressed a programme of safety improvements on SH2 between Ngāūranga to Featherston and between Masterton and Carterton. The addition of median barriers and roundabouts have improved safety and reliability for road users.

- A \$350m investment in public transport giving commuters more travel options and helping to reduce congestion.

Top of the South

Investment in the Nelson, Tasman, and Marlborough regions during 2023-24 supported creating a safer, more resilient land transport network to get goods to market and provide travel choices.

Key regional highlights during the year included:

- The continuation of recovery work resulting from the severe weather events of 2021 and 2022 restoring connectivity within the region and improving safety and access.
- The continuation of stabilisation work on SH6 Dellows Bluff near Murchison, including fixing an underslip and mitigating rockfall dangers, to build greater resilience into this stretch of road and make it more reliable.
- Completion of the SH6 Bells and St Leonards Road roundabout in Blenheim, which has made the road safer and easier for road users.
- Completion of most of the work to repair the slow vehicle lane on State Highway 1 at the Picton Elevation to help prevent future ground movement and build greater resilience into this major freight and tourism route.
- The installation of safety barriers and other safety improvements on the SH60 Ruby Bay Bypass, near Nelson. Road widening, new drainage, side barriers and median barriers will combine to improve safety, resilience and reliability on this important freight and tourism link between Motueka and Nelson.
- An investment of \$138m in maintenance and renewals making our state highways and local roads safer and more reliable and improving resilience.

West Coast

Investment on the West Coast during 2023-24 focussed on maintaining safe, reliable road and rail freight connections to support the economy.

Key regional highlights during the year included:

- The successful delivery of a \$60m maintenance and renewals state highway and local roads programme, ensuring the region's roads are safe and people and freight can get into and out of the region efficiently.
- Resilience works began at the Whataroa River and Wanganui River on SH6 to make the bridges less vulnerable to severe weather events and keep the West Coast connected.
- Planning began for resilience work between SH6 Hope Saddle and SH65 Higgins Bluff, to help keep the region connected to the South Island.

Canterbury

Investment throughout Canterbury during 2023-24 was focused on creating a safe, more resilient road and rail network, that supports the movement of people and goods.

Key regional highlights during the year included:

- Nearly \$2m was invested in the on-demand public transport service in Timaru.
- New traffic signals at the Tram Road off-ramp have improved the safety, efficiency, and capacity for the right-hand turn towards Kaiapoi. A range of safety improvements at the intersection make the intersection safer for everyone to use.
- The completion of the Little River to Coop Town Shared Use Path created a safe 1.3km shared use path for people to walk and cycle along SH75 and improved travel options for the area.
- The completion of SH1 Tinwald Corridor improvements saw new traffic signals make it easier and safer for people to move around, strengthening community connections between west and east Tinwald. This is a Road of Regional Significance.
- An investment of \$283m in maintenance and renewals making our state highways and local roads safer and more reliable and improving resilience.

Otago/Southland

A safe, well-connected, and resilient land transport system that gets goods to market and supports economic growth was the focus of our investment in the Otago and Southland transport network during 2023-24.

Key regional highlights during the year were:

- The opening of the new \$31m Beaumont Bridge on SH8 near Clutha, building greater resilience and reliability into the key freight route between Dunedin and Central Otago.
- Completing the final stage of the SH88 shared path from Dunedin to Port Chalmers, making the route safer for cyclists and pedestrians and supporting the movement of freight to the port.
- Work also progressed on new roundabouts on SH6-SH84 Mount Iron and Ballantyne Road/Riverbank Road near Wanaka, as did further planning for the new Queenstown Package of road and public transport improvements.