

Frequently asked questions – 8 January 2020

The FAQs below are based on what we know now.

What work is being done?

There are two separate projects:

- NZ Transport Agency is renewing the main highway, repairing the carparks, and surfacing with asphalt from kerb to kerb
- Hauraki District Council is upgrading the kerb and channel as well as replacing the footpaths

At the moment the focus is on the highway renewal and kerb and channelling work which will be undertaken by Higgins as the contractor. The council will carry out the footpath replacement work in 100m sections once the work on the road corridor is complete.

When will work start?

As the work needs to be done in alignment, both projects will get rolling 14 January 2020.

Where is the project starting and ending?

The work will start at the Piako River Bridge and stop just before Pipiroa Road.

Why is the work happening at such a busy time of year?

Unfortunately, the best time to build roads is during summer when the weather is dry. This means NZ Transport Agency only has a short window of time to complete the upgrade before winter arrives. It's important we fit in alongside NZTA timeframes to minimise not only disruption, but also the cost to our ratepayers.

How long will it take?

It's expected the bulk of the construction work, which includes the highway renewal and kerb and channel will take about 16 weeks. After that, Hauraki District Council will replace the footpath in 100m sections over a period of about 20 weeks. The highway renewal and kerb and channel work will be done in three sections, and the contractor has told us they'll do their best to make sure no business has restricted access or disruption directly in front of their premises for more than two weeks.

Will both lanes of the road be closed during the work or will one lane stay open?

The start of the upgrade will require the road to be fully closed for a period of about two weeks from the Piako River Bridge to the first pedestrian crossing near Dent Street. This is necessary for safety reasons as the road in this section is too narrow to allow work to happen with one lane open. The dates supplied for the road closure from NZTA are Tuesday 14 January to 3:00pm Friday 24 January. Full road closure may continue for a short period after the Auckland Anniversary weekend, depending on construction

progress. After the full closure, traffic travelling from Auckland to Bay of Plenty will still be detoured, but traffic travelling from Bay of Plenty to Auckland with travel through town on one open lane

Will there be a detour in place and where is this detour?

The detour map is attached to this document and will be available on the Inet, council website and Facebook. For Auckland traffic travelling south, the main detour will start at the Thames/Coromandel traffic circle where State Highway 1 and State Highway 25 meet. Traffic can enter Ngata off State Highway 25, via Pipiroa Road, or bypass Ngatea altogether and travel on to Hauraki Road. Traffic can also access Ngatea from Mangatarata, along State Highway 2.

For traffic travelling north from Bay of Plenty, the detour will be via Hauraki Road. Ngatea can then be accessed from State Highway 25, along Pipiroa Road.

NZTA advises that people can still walk over the Piako Bridge but there will be very limited parking before the bridge.

Can I see the plans?

Yes. Detailed plans and concept drawings are available at <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz> as well as at our Ngatea council office, the Hauraki Golf Club and our Ngatea swimming pool.

Will there be any nice gardens, seating or lighting?

There are many practical things that must be done before we can turn our thoughts to nice-to-have things like gardens, seating and lighting. We've had to be practical about our available budget and time constraints due to fitting in with the work NZ Transport Agency is doing to renew the road. Once we've got the basics right, we'll look at options for more streetscape work and how it can be funded further down the track.

In the meantime, we're asking people to share their footpath design ideas and go in the draw to win a bumper beach box. More information and entry forms are available at <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz> as well as at our Ngatea council office, the Hauraki Golf Club and our Ngatea swimming pool.

How disruptive will the work be?

Unfortunately, the work will be disruptive to both local businesses and the community during construction. The contractor has told us they'll work closely with businesses and other local organisations to do everything they can to minimise this. NZTA and the Council will also do as much as possible to promote the fact that Ngatea is still open for business.

Who do I contact if I have suggestions or questions?

Stephen Schulz, the Higgins Network Manager has supplied us with an email address at Higgins for any questions or concerns about the mainstreet upgrade. They will have three staff members managing the email address. It is ngatea@higgins.co.nz

How do I stay updated about the projects?

For information and updates about the Council portion of the work:

- Go to <https://weneedtotalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz>
- Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/hauraki-dc.govt.nz
- Sign up to our e-newsletter 'In the Loop' www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/e-newsletter
- Give us a call 0800 734 834
- Flick us an email info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz
- Call into any of our offices in Paeroa, Waihi and Ngatea

For information and updates about the NZ Transport Agency portion of the work:

- Go to www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic-and-travel-information
- Follow NZTA on Facebook www.facebook.com/NZTAWaikatoBoP



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