

FAQs

What has NZTA been doing for the past two years?

After NZTA identified a preference for option 5A (you can find more information on this on NZTA's website), it received feedback from the local community and stakeholders around the impacts and implications of this option. NZTA has spent time doing some more work on what these issues are, what they mean for the community, and whether there are other and better ways to achieve a roading connection in this area.

At the same time, NZTA has worked with Horowhenua District Council (HDC) on exploring what the impacts of higher than anticipated growth and traffic volumes in the area might mean. In order to strategically plan and deliver the best outcomes for local residents, businesses, road users and connecting areas NZTA are now looking at long-term solution(s) for the section of State Highway 1 from Taylors Road (to connect to the Peka Peka to Ōtaki Expressway), north as far as the Manawatū River.

NZTA is committed to working closely with the community and other key stakeholders so that you can clearly understand what we are doing, how you can influence the project, and how your views will be taken into consideration when we make decisions about the project.

Why are they doing more consultation?

As the scope of expressway project has changed, NZTA wants to work with the community to make sure the best option for the entire route from Taylors Road to Manawatū River is developed.

NZTA needs to check back that what you've previously told us is still relevant, what's changed since then and how the expressway can support community aspirations for Levin and beyond.

Once NZTA has gathered this information, it will use it, along with technical work, to develop one or more alignment options.

NZTA plans to come back to the public later in 2017 to show you the results of this work, and seek further feedback on what you think. This will then form the basis of a recommended option that is presented to the Transport Agency Board for endorsement in early 2018.

What is collaborative consultation?

Collaborative consultation is focused on ensuring affected people, communities and organisations are able to provide their thoughts, concerns and ideas. These are then used to guide the development of a project; the community will co-define the issues, the process going forward, the solution and the actions.

It is a new approach to consultation for NZTA in Horowhenua, and will hopefully allow for a more inclusive process that provides for wins for communities throughout the District.

What is Council's role in this?

Council has committed to working with NZTA throughout this process.

During the consultation process, a NZTA officer will be based at Council's headquarters every Thursday throughout June.

Council will make a submission to NZTA on the preferred option; the submission will be endorsed by elected members.

What is the consultation process?

There will be two rounds of consultation.

- **May/June:** Various community events will be organised from late May 2017 onwards where you will be able to have your say. They will be held at:
 - Levin Market in the Levin Uniting Church on 3 June
 - Family Fun Day, Levin Adventure Park 10 June
 - Ōhau Market, Ōhau Public Hall 17 June
 - Poroutawaho Community Hall, 22 June
 - Levin RSA, 23 June.

Property owners who have previously been identified as affected will be contacted directly.

- **Later in 2017:** NZTA will use your feedback alongside technical information to come back to talk to the community.

How can I have my say?

In the first round of engagement, you can have your say by attending the community events and going online to the NZTA website. Submissions can be made online between 29 May and 2 July 2017.

When will I know if my property is affected by the project?

During the second round of consultation later in 2017, NZTA will have a better idea of the future alignment of the expressway.

NZTA anticipates that it will make a recommendation to its Board early next year – the alignment is not considered a preferred option until the Board has endorsed it.

I'm buying a property/building a house/developing a subdivision – how do I know if the new expressway won't be built on it?

We apologise for the uncertainty. However, the process is outside of Council's control.

At this point in time, no decision has been made about the location of the expressway. It is likely there will be a preferred option later this year. However, it may not be made public until early 2018 and even then still requires the approval of the NZTA Board before it can be considered as the preferred option.

When will it be built?

NZTA has indicated that it will lodge Resource Management Consent applications in mid-2019 and that subject to approval construction could start as early as mid-2021.

Will the project include new entrances and exists to our towns?

New interchanges may be required, and NZTA is seeking public input into determining where they might be.

Does the project include walking and cycling facilities?

Yes, and NZTA is seeking input from the public as to where these might be located.

What does an expressway mean for Foxton?

At this stage, the location of the expressway is through to the Manawatū River. While there has been commentary about extending it further no decision on this has been made. NZTA is seeking feedback on the alignment north of Koputaroa Road intersection with State Highway 1.

Where will the entranceways to Levin, Ōhau, Manakau be?

We don't know. This is one of the many things that will need to be considered as part of the consultation process. Council is committed to working with the community to look at the options and to come up with recommendations that are in the best interests of our communities.

What happened to the Levin Town Centre project?

Council will come back to the community with a second round of consultation later this year – we're keen to do this once NZTA has provided a clear direction for the location of the expressway. If the State Highway alignment stays the same it will affect what can and can't be done in the Levin Town Centre.

During the second round of consultation we aim to seek your thoughts on the changes that have been incorporated into the plan following the first round of consultation. Meanwhile, we're talking with some key stakeholders, including NZTA about the project and how it may affect them. Parts of the project will be timed to occur alongside the development of the expressway thereby providing an opportunity to create a town centre that is safer and more enjoyable.

So, is Levin being bypassed?

More than likely. However, that decision is still to be made and NZTA hope to have a better steer on this latter this year. The Wellington Northern Corridor which is made up of several expressways, skirts populated areas – this reduces travel times and increases safety.

What affect will a bypass have on businesses in Levin?

During the consultation process, Council plans to release more information about studies that have been undertaken to assess the economic impact of an expressway.

If the expressway is built on another site away from current SH1 what will happen to the old road?

Usually, old State Highways are gifted to local Councils as has happened in Kāpiti recently. This can present an opportunity to local communities to improve their main streets, make

them safer as well as provide connections to other towns in the district without having to access the expressway. Council is committed to working with NZTA to ensure the assets are in the best condition possible prior to being given to Council to ensure they are not a burden on ratepayers.

What is happening with Waitarere curves realignment?

NZTA has placed this project on hold while the expressway is consulted on.