



Tauranga Eastern Link

Project update

August 2010

Green light for construction

After nearly ten years of planning and preparation, the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) has received the green light to build the Tauranga Eastern Link.

The Minister of Transport announced on 29 July, that the Government has agreed tolling can help fund the Tauranga Eastern Link. This funding means construction of the Tauranga Eastern Link will start up to ten years earlier than without tolling.

This exciting news comes as a result of the 2009 public tolling consultation where

92 percent of respondents conditionally or unconditionally supported advancing the project through tolling.

The NZTA would like to thank the local communities for their support and patience while a final decision was reached and now looks forward to delivering this important project.

The objectives of the Tauranga Eastern Link

One of seven roads of national significance, the objectives of the Tauranga Eastern Link project are to:

- support the managed growth for the area
- improve efficiency and contribute to economic development through improved travel time
- provide a more direct route to the Port of Tauranga
- provide a safer route between Tauranga and Paengaroa.

The Bay's largest ever state highway project

Who's building it?

Two groups of companies have formed consortia and submitted tenders to design and construct the 23km Tauranga Eastern Link project. Tenders closed on 20 July and will be undergoing a rigorous two-month evaluation period before the successful tenderer is announced in October.

Constructing the Tauranga Eastern Link

The Tauranga Eastern Link will be built in two stages, and work has already started on stage one. The preliminary work (called 'enabling works') will be either completed, or be near completion, by the time the successful tenderer is ready to start stage two construction (expected in 2011).

Stage one - enabling works

The enabling works are a series of seven smaller projects with a combined value totaling \$35 million. They involve relocating watermains, improving a pumpstation and extending both Truman Lane and Kaituna Road.

Stage two - main construction

Stage two involves constructing the \$420 million, 23km Tauranga Eastern Link. This

stage will be delivered under a design and construct contract. This type of contract has been chosen because NZTA believes it will encourage innovation and deliver the best value-for-money.

Design and construct contracts begin with the NZTA setting out the scope and key requirements of a project. The successful tenderer submits their design and construction programme for approval, which is checked against the requirements. Throughout the project, the NZTA keeps an oversight of construction.

Tauranga's Harbour Link was managed under a design and construct contract. Innovations on that project saved around \$50 million and three months construction time.

Once the successful Tauranga Eastern Link tenderer is chosen, we expect it will take them up to six months to refine their designs and construction programme.

Once they've completed this step, we'll know where and when construction will start along the 23km route. With three million cubic metres of earth to move, and seven bridges to build, it's a large scale project for them to plan and manage!

Quick facts

START DATE: 2011

COMPLETION DATE: 2016 (estimated)

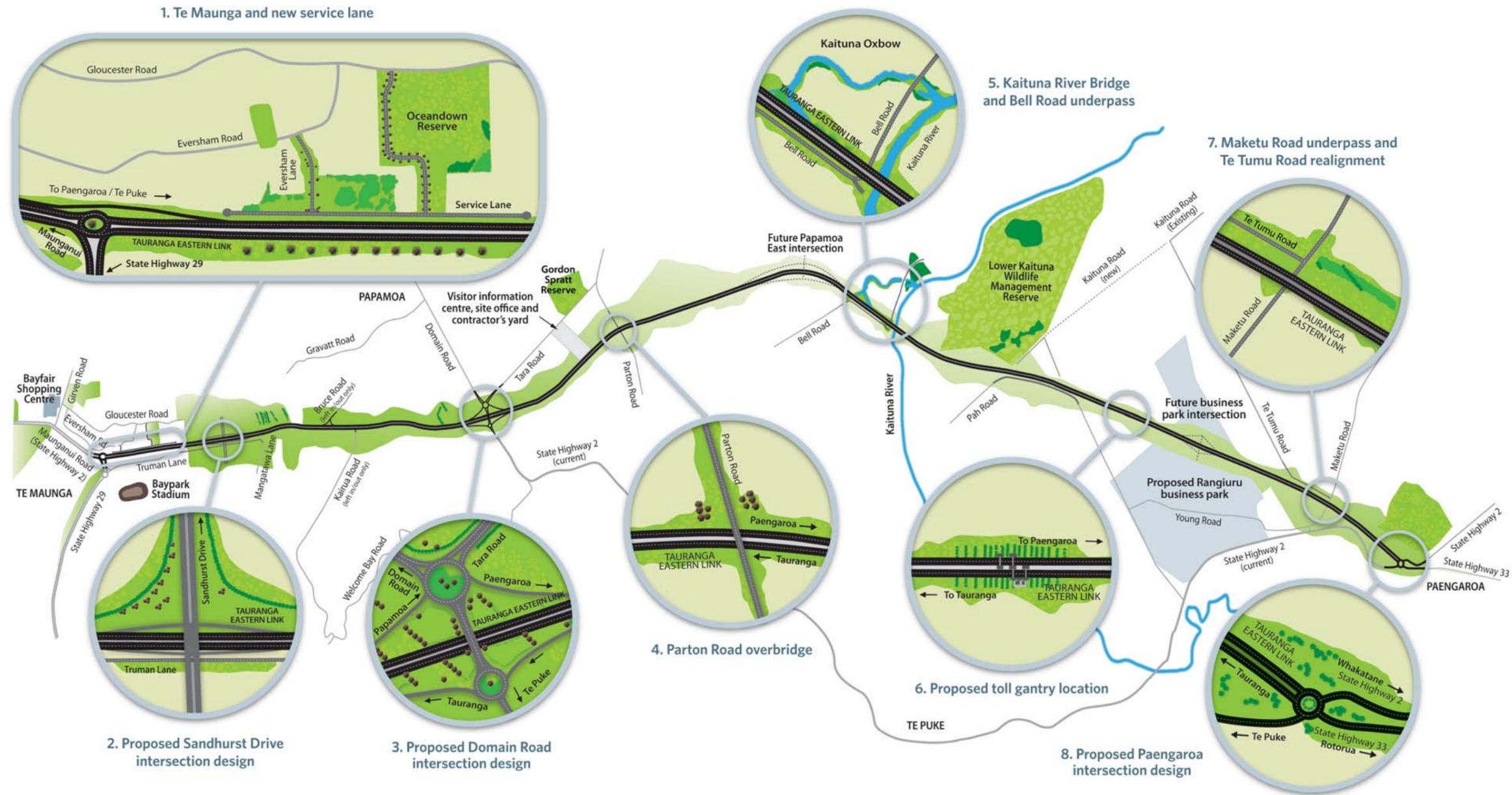
LOCATION: Starts at Te Maunga in Tauranga (near Bay Park Stadium) and finishes at the existing junction of SH2 and SH33 (near Paengaroa).

LENGTH: 23km

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST: \$455 million (in 2010 dollars).



Parton Road enabling works - watermain relocation.



NOTE: Drawing as at July 2010 - the proposed intersection designs will be confirmed closer to the start of construction. Drawing not to scale.

Construction of the Bay's largest state highway project starts on site in 2011 and is expected to take five to six years to build, depending on soil and weather conditions. All going well it will be open to traffic in 2016.

Section one: Te Maunga to Domain Road

Upgrade 6km of existing highway to four lanes with median barrier. Key features include:

- widening the existing state highway from Te Maunga to Domain Road
- improving Te Maunga intersection
- new and safer access for properties fronting State Highway 2
- two new intersections at Sandhurst Drive and Domain Road
- left-in/left-out intersections at Bruce and Kairua Roads.

Section two: Domain Road to Paengaroa junction (SH2/SH33)

Construction of a new 17km highway with four lanes and a median barrier. Key features include:

- Parton Road overbridge
- 150m four lane bridge over the Kaituna River
- overpasses over Maketu Road and railway line
- intersection at Paengaroa (SH2 and SH33).

The future of tolling is free-flow

The Tauranga Eastern Link will use an electronic tolling system to enable you to travel the 23km journey without having to stop or slow down to pay. The proposed location of the toll collection point is to be between Kaituna River and the future Rangiuru Business Park intersection. The exact tolling system to be used will be selected closer to completion of the road.

Project fast facts

- 23km four lane median-divided highway.
- Three intersections.
- Over three million cubic metres of earthworks.
- Two million cubic metres of imported fill.
- Seven bridges, including the Kaituna River bridge - 150m length.
- Approx 550,000 square metres of new road.
- Approx 300,000 native plants to be planted.

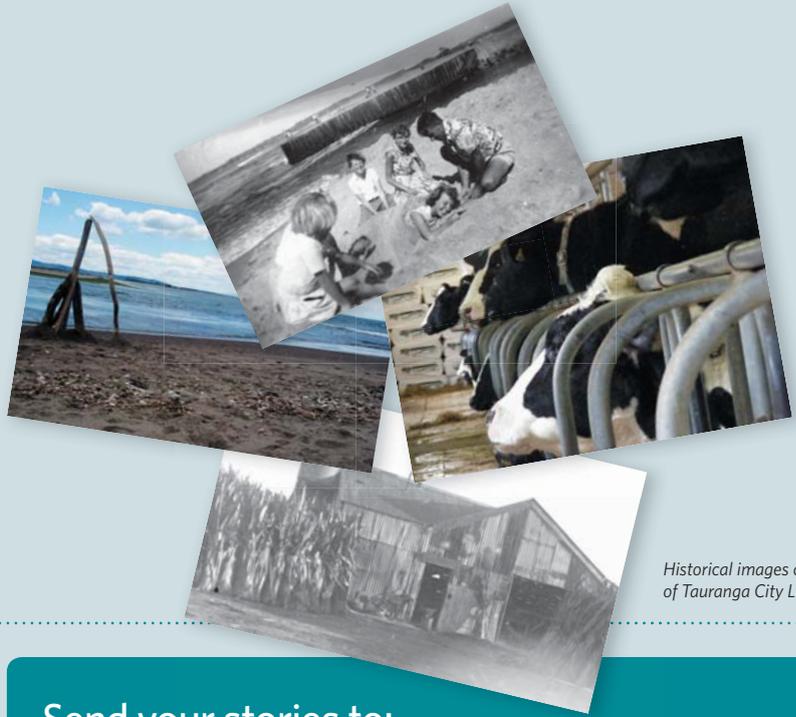
Have you got a story to tell?

The Tauranga Eastern Link as a concept has been around since the 1970's - so it has been in the pipeline for over three decades. Now it is a reality, and it will be the largest state highway project ever built in the Bay of Plenty.

As the 23km highway stretches over rural pasture and through orchards, including areas rich in cultural history, we appreciate the landscape will be significant to many, and part of many lives. From childhood memories to historical events, there is no doubt there will be countless personal stories of the land in which the Tauranga Eastern Link travels.

If you would like to share your personal story, memory, or piece of history, the project team would like to hear from you.

Your stories may be shared on our website, in future publications or used to help develop unique characteristics to the Tauranga Eastern Link.



Historical images courtesy of Tauranga City Libraries.

Details:

- Please limit to 200 words.
- Recorded/dictaphone entries up to 10 minutes.
- Multiple stories and photographs welcome.
- Stories will remain the property of the NZTA and may be published (online and print) or used for promotional purposes.
- Close off date for stories: Friday 22 October 2010.

Send your stories to:

Email: taurangaeasternlink@nzta.govt.nz, or

Post: NZTA, Tauranga Eastern Link, PO Box 430, Tauranga 3140.



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