

BOP interchange



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Welcome to Interchange - the Transport Agency's Bay of Plenty newsletter

Wow – how can we already be in the fifth month of 2015? It seems like yesterday that we sent out our last newsletter, when in fact this is the first for the year, so we have quite a lot to update you with.

We have been busy with a number of projects and initiatives in the Bay of Plenty and details of many of these are included in this newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the great projects which contribute to a safer and more efficient state highway network in the region.

We look forward to bringing you more BOP transport updates throughout the remainder of 2015. If you want further information at any point please [visit our website](#) or get in touch [by email](#).

We are also on [facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Pictured above:

Tauranga Eastern Link, SH2 looking from Te Maunga to the Mangatawa interchange

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Tauranga Eastern Link: The end is in sight

The [Tauranga Eastern Link \(TEL\) project](#) is now in its fifth and final year and the team is very pleased with progress as the final stages and opening date approach quickly.

Many areas of the project are now receiving the finishing touches including final road surfacing and installation of



roadside protection barriers, street lights and signage. With Autumn upon us the landscaping is also underway with mulching and the final planting of 100,000 plants.

The TEL will be opened in two phases; the existing State Highway 2 between Te Maunga and the Domain Road interchange will be open in June, and the Tauranga Eastern Link Toll Road will be open by August.

Following the fire last year at the Domain Road interchange, crews worked tirelessly over Summer to demolish the damaged components. New bridge beams were lifted in place during March and the overall impact to the project has been minimal.

Another project milestone was the February opening of the Parton Road overbridge which takes traffic over the TEL. The 67metre long bridge is one of the TEL's seven bridges and the first opened to the public.

Plans are currently being drawn up for a public open day to celebrate the full completion of the project. To register your interest please [join our mailing list](#) to ensure you are sent further details as they become available.

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Tolling change ahead for Route K

If you've recently driven on the Route K toll road you may have noticed the large structure, called a gantry, situated just north of the toll booths and wondered 'what on earth is that?'. 

It is anticipated that in August the Transport Agency will be taking ownership of the road from Tauranga City Council. The gantry is the new electronic toll point and will capture a vehicle's details and charge the toll, instead of the current toll booths.

Electronic tolling offers drivers more time savings as there is no need to stop to pay the toll or hunt for loose change.

The toll price from August will be \$1.80 for cars and motorbikes and \$4.80 for trucks.

The Transport Agency offers a number of account options to best suit customers' needs or tolls can be paid via pay-as-you-go, either online or at selected service stations.

People who will be frequent users of the toll road will be encouraged to sign up for one of the Transport Agency's account options, which will also cover travel on the Tauranga Eastern Link Toll Road and the Northern Gateway Toll Road, north of Auckland.

Existing Tauranga City Council account holders can expect to receive information on how to do this by the end of May.

If you already have an account set up for the Northern Gateway Toll Road, north of Auckland, you don't need to do anything, as your details will be transferred over.

Until August people using Route K will continue to pay via the toll booths. Quickcard holders are encouraged to use the remaining balance before 31 July 2015. Existing Imprest and fleet accounts will remain in place until the end of July 2015. Tauranga City Council will send more

information about how accounts will be closed and refunds, if needed, are managed.

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It's all go for the Maungatapu underpass

Construction of a new Girl Guides and Scouts centre at Ila Park, Welcome Bay, is almost complete and handover is due to take place in June. The new Baden Powell Centre replaces the current one which will be demolished later this year as it is in the path of the Maungatapu underpass.



The underpass will deliver a two lane road underneath the Maungatapu roundabout on State Highway 29. In addition to reducing traffic congestion at peak times, it will make travel safer and easier for pedestrians and cyclists.

Contractors have started preliminary works to prepare the site for construction, these include site clearance, environmental control systems, and a temporary road to give residents access to Hammond Street.

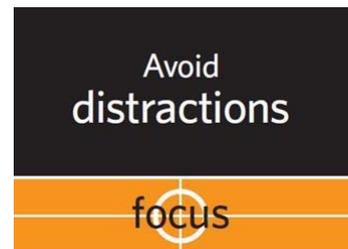
The project is expected to take three years to complete and an open day will be held in late July/early August to give the community the opportunity to find out more about the project and how it will improve safety and congestion in Tauranga.

If you want to receive details on the open day [please contact us](#) to add your details to our database.

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'Own Your Road' Checkpoint Safety Campaign

The Transport Agency's Bay of Plenty office is working closely with local Police on the 'Own Your Road' checkpoint campaign.



The Bay of Plenty is over-represented in crashes involving driver distraction, and the local Police and the Transport Agency are committed to raising awareness about the risks.

Creating safe roads is a shared responsibility. Drivers who are stopped at checkpoints throughout the region are given an information leaflet highlighting the risks on the Bay of Plenty's state highways with questions and tips on how they could change their driving to help improve safety on our roads.

A recent Own Your Road leaflet focused on driver distraction and gave tips on what causes it and how to avoid it; lack of sleep, mobile phones, eating / drinking / smoking, applying make-up /shaving, responding to children and entertainment systems and GPS/Maps.

For more information [visit the Distraction webpage](#) and keep an eye out for the next checkpoint on your nearest BoP state highway.

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Sculptures for the TEL

A 130m long pa sculpture, set to become one of the largest public artworks on display in New Zealand, is one of two

large-scale artworks being installed alongside the Tauranga Eastern Link Toll Road.

The sculptures, created by renowned New Zealand artist Regan Gentry and entitled Bound Around, will be completed in time for the road's official opening later this year.

The palisade pa, made from roadside safety guard rails and wood repurposed from Tauranga's Coronation Pier, is inspired by the history of the pa sites amongst the Papamoa Hills which form the backdrop to the location.

The second sculpture, an eight-metre high Spinifex made from aluminium street light poles, represents the seaside and beach. Construction is underway near the Tara Road roundabout.

The large scale works are designed to be viewed from a moving vehicle and will enhance the visual experience of the motorway, adding character to the infrastructure and the landscape.

The artworks are funded by the Transport Agency and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, with kind support from Tauranga City Council. More information is available on the [latest media release](#).



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'Take a journey' at Fieldays

Visitors to this year's Fieldays event near Hamilton will be able to connect with the Transport Agency before they even arrive at the organisation's site at Mystery Creek.

Live real-time travel information specifically for those travelling to and from Fieldays will be shared via a mobile app, website, and on signage on selected highways.

This first for Fieldays and the Transport Agency is one of the many elements in our theme 'Take a journey with us' which showcases the range of journeys that people take with the Transport Agency.

Over the four-day event Fieldays visitors can see and learn more about how the Transport Agency is helping and encouraging everyone to take safe, smart, efficient and healthy journeys.

Our new site will be on the corner of O Road and D Street (opposite Kiwi's Best Kitchen food marquee) and will have a range of interactive displays plus prizes to be won!

If you're intending on visiting [Fieldays \(10-13 June\)](#), make sure you drop in and see our site, we'd love to share the journey with you.



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Bay of Plenty winner for NZ's Favourite Place to Cycle

This summer, Bike Wise asked Kiwis to nominate and vote for their favourite places to cycle from around New Zealand. After receiving thousands of votes, the winner of the esteemed title of 'NZ's Favourite Place to Cycle' is The Redwoods in Rotorua.



The Redwoods (Whakarewarewa Forest) also took out the category win for NZ's favourite 'off-road/adventure ride' this year. This is the second successive year that Rotorua has won the award for the country's favourite cycling destination.

NZ's Favourite Places to Cycle competition was run in February as part of Bike Wise Month, which involves a festival of 340 fun cycling events across New Zealand, for more information about NZ's Favourite Places to Cycle and the other category winners, visit the [Bike Wise website](#).

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Latest campaigns

Have you reset your own limit?



The laws around how much alcohol you can have in your system before you drive changed on 1 December 2014.

'Just a few drinks' is now enough to get caught.

The lower alcohol limits affect drivers 20 years and over (for drivers under 20 years, the limit remains at zero) but the people most affected are those who have driven for years after a few drinks believing that they're safe.

Recently the Transport Agency launched their latest advertisement 'Limits', which you can [view here](#).



For general enquiries or contact information about the NZ Transport Agency please check our website www.nzta.govt.nz or email us at info@nzta.govt.nz

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