The Tauranga Eastern Link - close to completion

The final word from the Transport Agency Senior Project Manager, Wayne Troughton

The Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL) was first discussed in the 1970's. It started taking shape in the 1990's and now we are about to open it in August 2015. These large roading projects have a long gestation period but eventually everything comes together and we now have an amazing road which we can't wait to open to the public, some five months early.

There have been many highlights on the project through the last four and a half years:

- Three sets of art features which provide a unique experience for the travelling public and a sense of identity for the road.
- Constructing the Paengaroa weigh station which encourages the trucking community to properly maintain their vehicles and make our roads safer.
- Developing relationships with the tangata whenua advisory group, community liaison group and the many key stakeholders providing an open forum to discuss the project and any challenges.
- A 6.8 kilometre shared walkway / cycleway, with the opportunity to develop further.
- I have also enjoyed presenting to the various interest groups about the TEL progress.

Wayne Troughton

The TEL has brought personal satisfaction as I worked on some of the concept alignments in the early 1990's and am now about to deliver the real thing.

The road brings a number of benefits to the region including quicker access for inter-regional freight to the port, opening up areas in Papamoa East for development, an extremely safe road (a 4.5 star motorway and one of the highest spec'd in NZ) and shortens the journey time from Paengaroa to Te Maunga by about 12 minutes. Lastly, it will give Te Puke an opportunity to grow and develop in a way it couldn't while there was a state highway running through the township.

As with all projects there have been some challenges along the way, especially the unexpected fire at the Domain Road interchange in November 2014. Through it all it has been a pleasure to work with the Fulton Hogan HEB Construction Alliance (FHHCA), with the support of Beca. The teams have always been professional in technical and contractual discussions which focussed on getting the best result, and their work is backed up with personable relationships, creating a good working environment.

The Transport Agency is proud to deliver this high quality road some five months early but could not have done it without the TEL project team (FHHCA and Beca) and the support of the community.

Wayne Troughton, NZ Transport Agency, Senior Project Manager

TEL community day

We invite you to come along to the TEL community day. This is your chance to explore the TEL before it is officially opened.

01 August

Saturday 1 August 2015

Save the date and keep an eye out for more details.

You can keep up to date with what's happening on our Facebook page:

facebook.com/NZTAWaikatoBoP

Tauranga Eastern Link

Mangatawa interchange

Parton Road overbridge

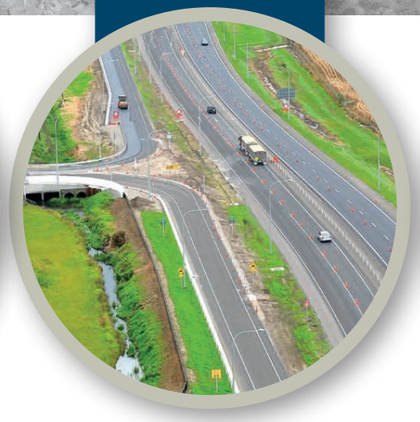
Kaituna River bridge and realigned Bell Road

Maketu Road bridge and Te Tumu Road realignment

East Coast Main Trunk rail bridge

Te Maunga and new resident access

Kairua Road (left in/left out only)



Domain Road interchange

Toll gantry

Paengaroa roundabout

Tolling – what to do before the road opens

Tolling the TEL allowed it to be constructed 10 years ahead of schedule and had 93% support in the community consultation.

Following international trends the Transport Agency uses an electronic tolling system. This has been proven to give drivers more time savings as they don't need to stop or slow down to pay the toll. It's the same system that operates on the Northern Gateway Toll Road, and the soon to be electronically tolled Route K (or Takitimu Drive Toll Road).

How it works

It's pretty simple really. All you have to do is drive.
You don't need to slow down, stop, or hunt for loose change.
You simply drive under the toll gantry, just like you would under any sign structure, and keep your speed as you would on the open road.

No matter what lane you're in, or speed you're driving, sensors and cameras located in the gantry detect your vehicle approaching and will:

- Capture the size and length of your vehicle to differentiate between a car, truck, motorcycle or bus
- Take a photo of both your front and rear registration plates
- Note the time and date you passed through and the direction you were travelling
- Use this information to assign the correct toll price.

The benefit of electronic tolling is that you enjoy an uninterrupted journey and can pay your toll at your convenience.

How to pay

There is a range of ways to pay for your toll, with the most convenient being setting up an account which covers travel on all the toll roads.

Set up your toll account and have everything in place for August when the road is open. Head to **www.tollroad.govt.nz** to find out more information.

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 account will automatically cover travel on all three toll roads.

If you'd prefer to pay as you go, you can pay for your toll online or at selected BP and Caltex service stations from August (transaction fee applies to in-person payments).

Pricing

TOLL ROAD	LIGHT VEHICLES INCLUDING MOTORCYCLES	HEAVY VEHICLES
Takitimu Drive Toll Road	$1.80	$4.80
Tauranga Eastern Link Toll Road	$2.00	$5.00
Northern Gateway Toll Road	$2.20	$4.40

Pay by account... the most convenient way to pay your toll

Save time and set up your toll account today

Covers travel on all Transport Agency toll roads. Two account options to choose from.

Questions?

The Transport Agency is committed to resolving customer queries as quickly and efficiently as possible.

email tollroad@nzta.govt.nz

phone 0800 40 20 20 between 8:00am and 8:00pm Monday to Friday.