2 Tauranga Eastern Link

Project update

October 2011

Visitors impressed with progress on the Tauranga Eastern Link

Construction activity on the Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL) has been ramping up over the past few months. As 17km of the project is through 'greenfields', Transport Minister Steven Joyce and Tauranga MP Simon Bridges took the opportunity to join the local media for a chance to see progress made in areas less accessible to the public.

Transport Minister Steven Joyce, Tauranga MP Simon Bridges and the NZTA's principal project manager Andrew Scott at the TEL visitor information centre.

Fulton Hogan HEB Construction Alliance project director Andrew McRae explains the Domain Road ground improvements (wick drains).

One of many areas the public won't see until the highway opens in 2016. The 'sand cut' is located between Parton Road and Kaituna River.

Te Puke behind the TEL

In 2016 Te Puke residents will get to reclaim their town.

Each day 21,000 vehicles – a high proportion of which are trucks - travel on State Highway 2 (SH2) through the Te Puke town centre making it an extremely busy stretch of road for local shoppers, pedestrians and motorists.

Every year at least 6.82 million tonnes of product travels through the town, highlighting the important contribution this route makes to the Bay of Plenty's economy. Once it's completed, the NZ Transport Agency's Tauranga Eastern Link will improve the efficiency of freight vehicles accessing the Port of Tauranga and beyond, enable access to new developments planned for Papamoa East and improve safety for residents and businesses along the current SH2 route.

Te Puke High School Deputy Principal David Crone will also breathe a sigh of relief. His biggest concern is one of safety for local school students, "I'm looking forward to the day when traffic volumes are lower through Te Puke and the roads are safer for children who walk and bike to school. It will also be safer for those that travel by bus to and from school, who have to wait on the roadside and also cross busy roads to get to their homes."

Many believe that once heavy traffic is moved out of the town centre, development and revitalisation of the district and town will begin to take shape.

"We have to have faith that the Tauranga Eastern Link will bring a positive change to our town" says local Te Puke resident, Dianne Leach.

Once the new road is open Te Puke will enjoy less noise and pollution and a more pedestrian friendly town centre, she says.

Richard Powdrell, of Federated Farmers and Te Puke Fast Forward sums it up; "For the Te Puke township the removal of traffic, especially most heavy vehicles, will give the retail sector the opportunity to create a pleasant, relaxed and vibrant shopping experience for locals and visitors alike. What Te Puke looks like beyond 2016 is up to us."

Dianne Leach says Te Puke will get their town back when the TEL opens.

Currently 21,000 vehicles travel through Te Puke per day – the TEL will divert heavy vehicles away from the town centre.

Aerial views of Tauranga Eastern Link construction progress - September 2011

1 SH2 - trial embankment at the Maranui Swale, Bruce Road top left hand corner

2 SH2 / Kairua Road intersection - Domain Road top of picture

3 SH2 / Domain Road, TEL alignment heading east towards Parton Road

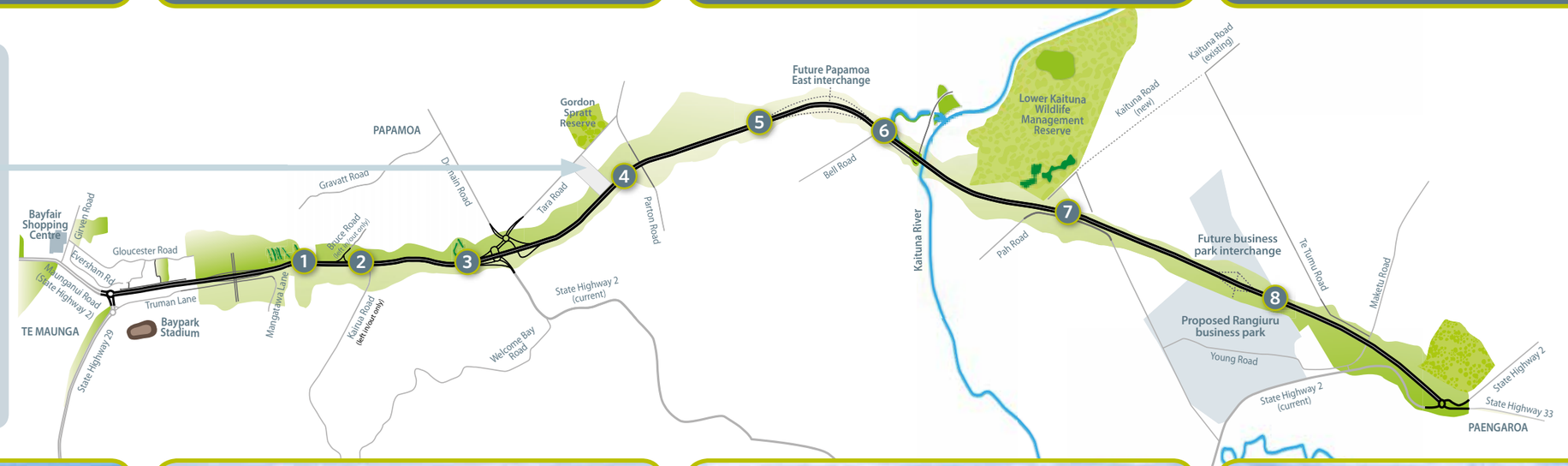
4 TEL alignment crossing Parton Road heading east towards Kaituna River

Information centre

65 Tara Road, Papamoa

Open 9.00am to 4.30pm
Mondays to Fridays

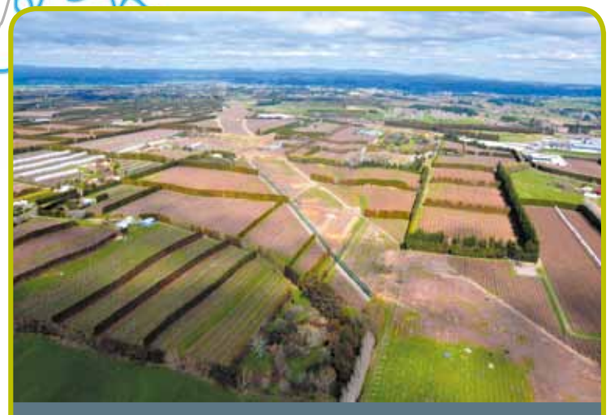
To see more photos and find out more about the Tauranga Eastern Link visit the project information centre.



5 TEL alignment heading east towards Kaituna River

6 Location where TEL crosses Kaituna River heading east towards Paengaroa

7 TEL alignment crossing Pah Road heading east to Paengaroa



8 Kiwifruit orchard reconfiguration at Paengaroa end of TEL

So what's going on along State Highway 2?

As part of the new 23km highway the Te Maunga to Domain Road section will be widened to four lanes and a new interchange will be built at Mangatawa.

Construction activity on this 6km section of SH2 has significantly increased over the past few months.

In July speed was lowered to 80km/h to slow traffic down within the construction zone, passing lanes were removed to allow more room for construction activity, and concrete barriers and site screens installed to separate motorists from the live construction site and to minimise driver distraction.

The large rigs seen between Bruce Road and Domain Road are being used to undertake ground improvements. Due to the ground conditions over 15,000 wick drains are being installed with pre-load material placed on top to help remove the water content from the soil.

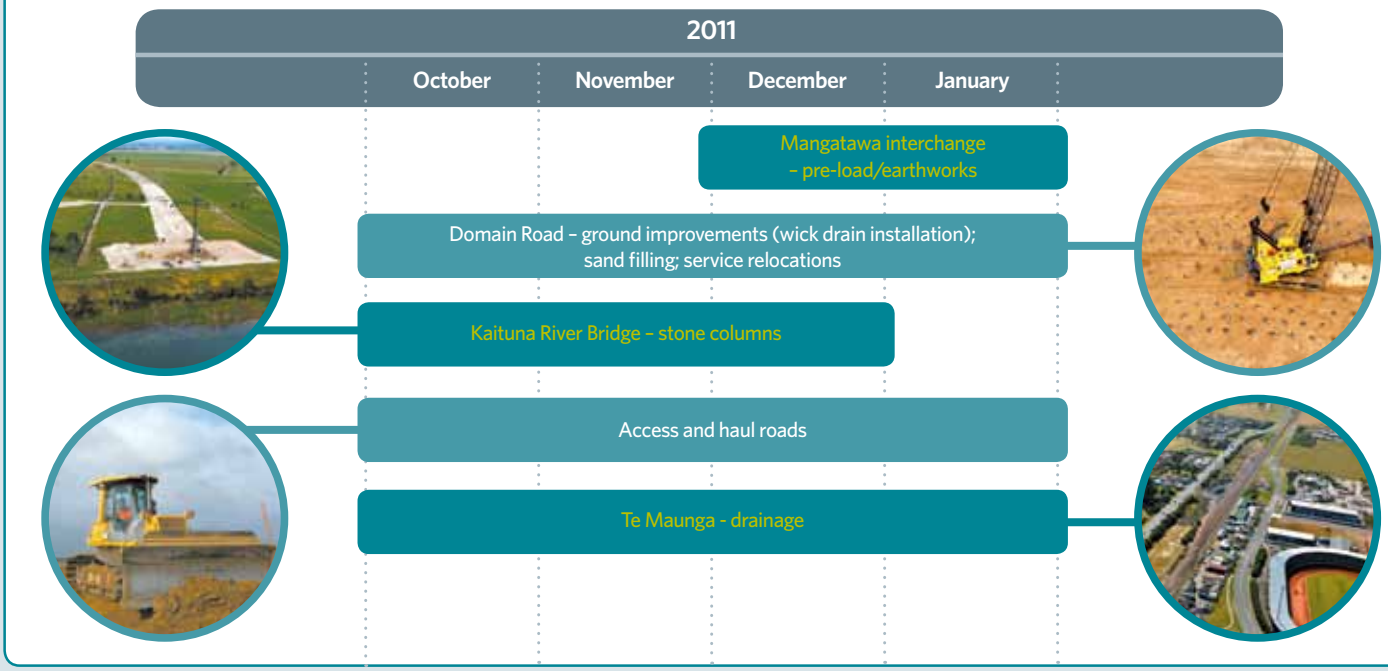
Other ground improvements in this area include the construction of three trial embankments – at Mangatawa, alongside the Maranui Swale and next to the rail yard at Te Maunga. Testing equipment in the embankments measure the amount and rate of settlement at each location helping to determine how the ground settles at each location.

From now until the end of the project construction activity will continue along SH2 and the NZ Transport Agency and Fulton Hogan HEB Construction Alliance wish to thank motorists for their care and patience when driving through this area.

Over 15,000 wicks will be installed alongside SH2 to help drain the water content from the soft soil below.

Three trial embankments will be constructed alongside SH2 similar to this one at Domain Road interchange.

Proposed construction programme for the next four months



Our contact details

free phone ***0800 TEL INFO (0800 835 463)***
email ***taurangaeasternlink@nzta.govt.nz***
For more information visit ***www.nzta.govt.nz/tel***

MAIL TO
Tauranga Eastern Link Team
NZ Transport Agency
PO Box 430
Tauranga 3140

NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

New Zealand Government