Kia ora koutou katoa

With summer just around the corner, we hope that you and your whānau are enjoying the longer days and warmer temperatures. Here’s the latest news on how we’re progressing and what to expect in the next few weeks.

**SH5/SH36 Ngongotahā roundabout**

The team is busy working towards completing the State Highway 5/36 roundabout. We’re currently applying the final layer of surfacing at the roundabout, including the bypass lanes to Hamilton and Rotorua.

Plan ahead from Tuesday to Friday

Our team will work in the Rotorua to Hamilton slip lane at the SH5/SH36 roundabout from Tuesday 30 November to Friday 3 December. The slip lane was used as a detour during winter and requires repairing, stabilising and sealing before the dual lane roundabout can be opened.

This work is scheduled to take place from Tuesday to Friday and is weather dependent. The roundabout remains single lane in each direction and traffic management will be in place with a 30km/h temporary speed limit.

At evening peak travel times, significant delays of 30 – 45 minutes are anticipated for motorists traveling from Rotorua to Hamilton, Ngongotahā and destinations north of Ngongotahā. We encourage those who are able to do so, to time their travel for outside peak times, particularly in the evening; work from home; allow extra time for travel or use alternative routes.

Work will take place during daytime only, due to a variety of machinery required to complete repair, stabilising and sealing works. If work is impacted by weather or other unforeseen issues, it will be carried out on the next suitable day.

This is one of the last pieces of work required to complete the roundabout upgrade. When this work is completed, contractors will continue work on the raised safety platforms in the bypass lanes, apply final line marking and finish the remaining driveways, footpath and landscaping.

We acknowledge that this work has caused additional delays, especially for people who travel through the site on a regular basis. We’d like to thank everyone for their ongoing patience as the works to upgrade the Ngongotahā roundabout continue.

Raised safety platforms

As part of the roundabout upgrade, we are constructing two raised safety platforms on the bypass lane entering and exiting the roundabout, as well as one on the lane exiting towards Rotorua. These raised sections of the road, with ramps on each side, aim to slow vehicles to a safe speed, making the roundabout safer to navigate for all users.

**SH5 safety improvements between SH36 and Dalbeth Road**

Work is progressing well improving safety along SH5 between SH36 and Dalbeth Road, including widening the road and installing median and side barriers. This includes a right turn bay at the Dansey Road intersection to improve visibility and safety. As part of those works, we are widening the road, reinstating light poles, sealing the road and installing barriers. The safety upgrades on this section of SH5 are expected to be completed in mid-December.

We’re also upgrading the parking area and the access to the urupā as part of this section to improve access from the highway. This work is expected to be completed mid-December and access to the urupā will be maintained at all times.

**Final section of SH5 safety improvements**

You will see that work has started on the final section of the project, from Dalbeth Road to north of the golf course. We’ve completed all the drainage works and expect to complete road widening and the installation of side barriers before Christmas. Traffic management and a 50km/h speed limit will be in place to ensure a safe working environment.

Some works will take place in the new year, including installation of the remaining median barriers, landscaping and road rehabilitation where we are repairing portions of the existing road.

We’d like to thank you, the Ngongotahā community, our project partners and stakeholders for your ongoing patience as we work to make this busy stretch of state highway safer. This is a disruptive piece of work and we understand the inconvenience these works are causing people.

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact Andres or Allen with any questions you may have.

Kind regards

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