

Waikato & Bay of Plenty state highway works October 2026

More than 500 lane kilometres set for renewal across Waikato and Bay of Plenty

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) will deliver a significant programme of state highway maintenance and renewals across the Waikato and Bay of Plenty during the 2026/27 construction season.

Bay of Plenty Asset and Operations Area Manager Sandra King says the programme is focused on keeping the region's state highway network safe, resilient and reliable for the people and businesses who depend on it every day.

"Across Waikato and Bay of Plenty, we're planning to deliver more than 500 lane kilometres of renewal work this season, including around 459 lane kilometres of resurfacing and 47 lane kilometres of pavement rehabilitation.

"This work is about maintaining the network at the right time, before roads deteriorate and require more disruptive and costly reconstruction."

The programme includes:

- Bay of Plenty: approximately 131 lane kilometres of renewals.
- Central Waikato: approximately 208 lane kilometres of renewals.
- East Waikato: approximately 84 lane kilometres of renewals.
- West Waikato: approximately 84 lane kilometres of renewals.

Ms King says the programme balances different types of renewal activity across the region, from resurfacing roads to protect the existing surface, through to more intensive road rebuilds where sections of state highway need deeper repairs.

"Resurfacing helps protect the road surface and extend its life, while a road rebuild is used where a section of road needs more substantial work to restore its strength and condition.

"Both are essential parts of keeping the network safe and reliable, particularly across a region that carries significant freight, commuter, tourism and local traffic."

While roadworks can cause short-term delays, the investment is essential to maintaining the region's transport network.

"We know roadworks can be frustrating, especially during the busy summer construction season, but this work is essential.

"The result will be safer, smoother and more reliable journeys across Waikato and Bay of Plenty."

To find out more about the upcoming maintenance season, sign up to receive your regional newsletter [here](#).

Ongoing road maintenance

Roadworks may be postponed due to rain or other factors that disrupt the weekly schedule. Please be aware there may be other less disruptive state highway works not listed in this update. Check the NZTA Journey Planner and our social media channels for the latest travel information and journey times before starting your journey at journeys.nzta.govt.nz.

Bay of Plenty

Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty

Work starting next week

- **SH29/SH29A:** Work is underway to confirm the location of underground services along the proposed route of the SH29/SH29A Tauriko West – Tupenga Road of National Significance. Crews will be working alongside SH29 between Ōmanawa Road and Tauriko from Monday 5 October for up to 3 days. Traffic management will be in place and people driving through this area

may experience shoulder closures, lane shifts and occasional short delays. For more information about this project visit nzta.govt.nz/tauriko-west

- **SH29 Tauriko Village:** From Monday 5 October, traffic signal poles will be installed on Te Ara Hoia Drive and between 808 SH29 and Te Ara Hoia Drive, over 5 days. Traffic management will include periods of stop/stop, a lane shift on Te Ara Hoia Drive and shoulder closures on the Tauranga-bound lane of SH29. The lights will be activated in 2027. Meanwhile overnight surfacing works will take place behind safety barriers across the site from Monday 5 October for 5 nights. Resident access will be maintained. Periods of stop/go may be required on SH29 when the surfacing crew are close to the live traffic lane, between 696 and 820 SH29. From Sunday 11 October, temporary safety barriers between 773 and 820 SH29 will be relocated over 3 nights ahead of pavement construction. Stop/go traffic management, lane shifts and reduced speed limits will be in place. Barriers are expected to remain for around 4 weeks, with additional barriers extending between 696 SH29 and the SH29/SH36 roundabout for ongoing stormwater works. All works are weather dependent and may be postponed if required.
- **SH29 Cambridge Road:** On Tuesday 6 October, kerb and landscaping works will take place outside 579 Cambridge Road, with a contingency day of Wednesday 7 October. Traffic management will include off-peak (9am to 3pm) stop/go and temporary speed limits.

Work starting soon

- **SH2 Bethlehem:** From Sunday 11 October, between 8pm and 5am for 4 nights, the east/city-bound lane of SH2 will be closed for overnight asphalt resurfacing. Work will take place south of the SH2 Moffat Road roundabout. During this time light vehicles will detour via Bethlehem Road, Carmichael Road, Millers Road and Ōtūmoetai Road and back to SH2. Heavy vehicles will detour via Moffat Road, SH29 and SH29A.

Work underway

- **SH29 Lower Kaimai:** We're renewing the road surface on SH29 between Valley View and Soldiers roads, until Friday 30 October (weather permitting). This work involves milling the existing surface and laying new asphalt. The passing lane has been closed for the duration of the work. Temporary speed limits are in place during the day, with minor delays expected. At night, between 6pm and 6am, road users should expect stop/go traffic management while paving takes place with short delays of up to 5 minutes. Please take care when travelling through the area.
- **SH29 Ōmanawa Bridge:** Construction is underway on SH29 between Ōmanawa Bridge and the Ōmanawa Road intersection. A temporary 50km/h speed limit is in place on SH29, and a short detour is in place for eastbound traffic turning into Ōmanawa Road. [More information](#)
- **SH29 Tauriko:** Construction continues along the southern side of SH29 through Tauriko Village, with a temporary 50km/h speed limit in place. Watermain works are underway between Te Ara Hoia Drive and 855 SH29, while stormwater works continue between 808 and 820 SH29. Lane shifts, shoulder closures, safety barriers and reduced speed limits remain in place. A temporary road layout also remains in place between the Cambridge Road intersection and the SH29/SH36 roundabout. The slip lane onto Takitimu Drive Toll Road will be closed from 7am to 3pm, Monday to Friday. Access to the Toll Road will be maintained via the roundabout. From 3pm each day, slip lane access will be reinstated under a wide shoulder closure.
- **SH29 Takitimu Drive Toll Road:** A reduced speed limit of 70km/h remains in place while crews are working behind the barriers on the construction of this major interchange for the Takitimu North Link Stage 1 project. [More information](#)
- **SH2/Fifteenth Avenue:** The bridge structure is completed. Crews are now installing the last of the drainage and building the approaches at the top of Fifteenth Avenue, the remaining panels are complete and pavement works at ground level continue. The lane closure near Edgecumbe Road will remain in place until late 2026. Road widening, drainage and street-lighting are underway at the bottom of the Fifteenth Avenue bridge towards Tauriko. An extended lane closure, 50km/h

speed limit and lane diversion is in place on SH2 between Eleventh Avenue off-ramp and SH29/Takitimu Drive Toll Road. [More information](#)

- **SH2 North, Woodland Road:** A section of SH2 near Woodland Road is being rebuilt, finishing mid-November. Work will take place during the day between 6:30am and 6pm each day, with occasional night work. Lane shifts and a lower speed limit are in place while the work is ongoing. Delays of up to 10 minutes are expected.
- **SH2/Pahoia/Esdaile intersection:** Construction is underway for a new roundabout. Watch out for lanes shifts and please be aware that speed restrictions and intermittent stop/go traffic management will be in place, which may result in longer delays.
- **SH2 Tauranga Eastern Link Toll Road / Wairākei Interchange:** NEW DATE for upcoming overnight ramp closures for gantry installation works. Wairākei off-ramp (Pāpāmoa East-bound traffic) will be closed between 8pm Monday 12 October and 4am Tuesday 13 October. Tauranga Eastern Link on-ramp (Tauranga/Mount-bound traffic) will be closed between 8pm Tuesday 13 October and 4am Wednesday 14 October. During these overnight closures, traffic will be detoured via Tara and Te Okuroa roads. Please follow traffic management and drive with care. The work is weather dependent, with Wednesday night as a backup if required.

Rotorua

Work underway

- **SH36 Tauranga Direct Road:** Construction is underway to replace a culvert 1km north of the SH36/Hamurana Road intersection at Hauraki Stream. Traffic is reduced to one lane, controlled by temporary traffic signals with lane and shoulder closures and a temporary speed limit of 30km/h. Minor delays are expected. Construction will be complete in 2027. Oversized vehicles must continue to use SH2, SH33, SH30 and SH5 for travel between Rotorua and Tauranga. [More information](#)

Work starting soon

Eastern Bay of Plenty

Work starting next week

- **SH2 Ōpōtiki:** Chipsealing will take place from Monday 5 October, between 8am and 5pm, on SH2 between Bridge Street and Wellington Street. SH2 will be closed to northbound traffic during the work. Northbound traffic will be detoured via Wellington Street and Church Street. A temporary speed limit will be in place through the worksite.
- **SH2 Waimana Gorge:** A road rebuild will start on Monday 5 October in the Gorge, south of Tāneatua, taking 10 weeks to complete finishing in early December. Work will take place during the day between 7:30am and 6pm, there will be stop/go traffic management and a reduced speed limit in place 24/7. Delays are to be expected.
- **SH30 west of Awakeri:** Around 3km of chipseal sites, varying in length, will take place from Tuesday 6 October to Thursday 8 October between 8am and 5pm each day. The work sites are between Maunder Road and Western Drain Road. SH30 will be closed to eastbound traffic during the work. All eastbound traffic will be detoured via SH34 Otakiri and SH2 Edgecumbe. Westbound traffic can continue through the worksite under stop/go traffic management and a reduced speed limit.

Work underway

- **SH2/Wainui Road, Matekerepu, near Ōpōtiki:** A 30km/h temporary speed limit is in place until the final resurfacing on Matekerepu Stream Bridge is completed. This work is weather dependent and expected to be completed in October. [More information](#)
- **SH2/Ōhiwa Beach Road/Waiotaha Valley Back Road intersections near Ōpōtiki:** Works are underway beside SH2 to construct 2 new teardrop roundabouts. SH2 is open under stop/go traffic

management from 7am to 6pm, with a 30km/h temporary speed limit. Works are also continuing on local side roads, where stop/go traffic management operates from 7am to 6pm with a temporary speed limit of 30km/h. Road surfaces may be uneven in places, so please allow extra travel time when passing through the area. Drivers can also expect layout changes in the coming weeks as construction progresses. Please pay close attention to signs and traffic management to ensure you follow the correct route through the work site. Completion is expected in mid-2027.

[More information](#)

Waikato

Thames-Coromandel

Work starting next week

- **SH25 east of Coromandel township:** Overnight asphalt resurfacing will start on Monday 5 October at several sites east of Coromandel township and continue until the end of October. Roadworkers will work between 8pm and 5am to reduce daytime disruption. Stop/go traffic management and a reduced speed limit will be in place.
- **SH25 Whenuakite:** A road rebuild will start just north of Whenuakite on Wednesday 7 October and finish on Tuesday 27 October. Work will take place between 8:30am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Stop/go traffic management and a reduced speed limit will be in place.

Work starting soon

- **SH2 Karangahake Gorge:** SH2 through the Karangahake Gorge will close from 9am to 4pm each day, from Monday 12 to Friday 16 October for further rock removal. The closure covers a 500m section beginning near the historic rail tunnel bridge and extending towards Paeroa. Property access will be maintained up to the closure points, but vehicles will not be able to travel through the closed section. Plan to travel outside the closure times. People travelling between regions should consider using SH29 over the Kaimai Range. [More information](#)

Work underway

- **SH25 Coromandel recovery works:** Work continues at 4 slip sites on Whangapoua Hill and another on Manaia Hill, following storm damage earlier this year. Lane closures and reduced speed limits are in place 24/7. Temporary traffic lights control traffic through the work sites. Work is expected to continue until late October.
- **SH25 Tairua:** Construction of the new Pepe Stream Bridge is underway. Traffic management will remain in place until the project is completed in late 2027. Vehicles, people walking and people cycling can continue to cross the stream, but occasional delays are expected. [More information](#)
- **SH25 Ramarama Stream:** Work is underway to replace the single-lane bridge just north of Whiritoa. Temporary traffic lights control traffic through the site under stop/go traffic management. The new 2-lane bridge is expected to be completed in 2027. [More information](#)
- **SH27 Ohinekaia Stream Bridge replacement:** Work continues to replace the bridge 5km south of Patetonga, with a speed restriction of 50km/h. Traffic is using a temporary single-lane bridge and a 50km/h speed limit is in place. Expect delays. The diversion is 3.2m wide and cannot accommodate over-dimension vehicles. The new bridge will be completed by the end of this year. [More information](#)
- **SH27 Piako River Bridge:** Strengthening work continues until December, with a 30km/h speed restriction in place. Some single lane closures and stop/go traffic management may be required.

West Waikato

Work starting next week

- **SH23 Raglan:** Road shoulder and drainage work will start on SH23 near Greenslade Road on Monday 5 October and take about 5 weeks. Crews will work from 8:30am to 5pm weekdays and

some Saturdays. Stop/go traffic management and a 30km/h reduced speed limit will be in place. A full road rebuild is expected to start in mid-November and finish on Friday 4 December. [More information](#)

Work starting soon

- **SH39 Symes Bridge:** From Sunday 11 October, Symes Bridge over the Moakurarua Stream will close to all traffic for up to 2 months. The bridge is about 16km north of Ōtorohanga. Roadworkers will replace the bridge deck and beams. The official detour for state highway traffic is via SH3 and Te Awamutu. Until the closure begins, expect periods of stop/go traffic management while scaffolding is installed and services are relocated.
- **SH31 Kāwhia:** Enabling work will start near Te Rauamo Road on Monday 12 October and take about 5 weeks. Crews will work from 8:30am to 5pm each day. Stop/go traffic management and a reduced speed limit will be in place. A full road rebuild is expected to start in mid-November and finish on mid-December.
- **SH3 Awakino Gorge closure:** Upcoming overnight closures will take place from Tuesday 27 October to Thursday 5 November, between 7pm and 4am. During the work, this stretch of SH3 will be closed each night from between the rest area near the Awakino Historic Tunnel and the intersection of SH3 with Manganui Road. The road will reopen at 4am Thursday 5 November after the final closure. During the day, the road will be open, under the standard stop/go traffic management and reduced speed limits. While the road is closed, road workers will also carry out drainage maintenance. Coordinating this work with the closures will reduce the need for separate traffic restrictions and help keep drainage systems working effectively. [More information](#)
- **SH31 near the Kāwhia lookout:** Work on an underslip near the Kāwhia lookout on SH31 is underway and completion expected late October. Crews will be working between 6am and 6pm Monday to Friday (Saturdays and Sundays may also be included as required). The road will be down to a single lane with stop/go traffic management and a 30km/h temporary speed limit in place.
- **SH30 near Bennydale:** Work continues to repair 2 underslips near Bennydale. Crews are working from 7am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. A lane closure and stop/go traffic management are in place. Work is expected to finish in mid-October, with Saturday work if weather causes delays.
- **SH39 Mangati Bridge:** The permanent replacement to the Mangati Bridge on SH39 between Ōtorohanga and Pirongia is now under construction. The old bridge was damaged beyond repair by flash flooding in February, with traffic currently using a single-lane temporary Acrow bridge. Traffic will continue to use the Acrow bridge until the new bridge is open to traffic in early 2027. Please drive carefully past the construction site and obey the posted speed limits.

Hamilton and Central Waikato

Work underway

- **SH1 Waikato Expressway - Cambridge Section:** Overnight work will continue next week at the Victoria Road Interchange (Hautapu) to complete asphaltting on all the ramps.

The team started the southbound ramps this week but had to adjust their programme because of the cold snap. They will be returning next week when the weather improves to complete asphaltting on the ramps overnight between 8pm and 5am starting back on the southbound ramps, then the northbound. Days to be confirmed based on the weather.

During the southbound ramp closures access to Cambridge will be via the Northern Interchange (Velodrome/Cambridge West exit) or for southbound traffic wanting to leave Cambridge via SH1B, Victoria Street, Duke Street and Tirau Road, past the Cambridge Golf Course.

During the northbound ramp closures the detour north will be via the Northern Interchange (Velodrome/Cambridge West). All northbound traffic wanting to access Cambridge will need to exit at the Cambridge Southern Interchange and enter Cambridge past the golf course.

The contractor is preparing to move into Stage 7 from 10pm Sunday 11 October (weather dependent). Stage 7 requires the closure of the southbound on-ramp at the Cambridge Southern Interchange. All southbound traffic leaving Cambridge to travel south on SH1 will need to use the Victoria Road Interchange (Hautapu).

Crews will be working across both southbound lanes in the area. Because of the narrow worksite where 2 lanes move into one, the works will be completed at night using stop/go traffic management and temporary speed limits of 50km/h and 70km/h that will remain in place during the day. Motorists are advised to plan ahead, allow extra time for their journeys, and consider alternative routes to help ease congestion. Please take care when travelling through work sites.

[More information](#)

South Waikato and Taupō

Work starting next week

- **SH1 Waiotaka Bridge:** SH1 is fully closed 24/7 until 5am Tuesday 6 October at Waiotaka No. 2 Bridge, near the Waiotaka Scenic Reserve, between Tūrangi and Motuoapa, while we carry out critical maintenance on Waiotaka No. 2 Bridge. The closure points are at the SH1 intersections with Grace and Waiotaka roads in Tūrangi, and Korohe Road in Motuoapa. The detour is via SH41, SH32 and SH30 and will add significant time to some journeys. After the road reopens, roadworkers will remain on site until mid-October to complete the work and fully reinstate both lanes. Expect lane closures and delays. Plan ahead and allow extra travel time. [More information](#)

Work underway

- **Arapuni Dam:** Arapuni Road across Arapuni Dam is closed for 24-36 months while Mercury carries out major repair work on Arapuni Hydro Dam. A temporary detour route via Powerhouse Road is in place during the closure for light vehicles only including cars, motorcycles, school buses, emergency services and rigged trucks up to 8 metres. General through traffic, heavy freight/commercial vehicles and long-distance travel should detour via SH1/SH21 and SH3.
- **SH5 South Waikato:** Work has resumed to widen SH5 near Waimakariri Road and install wide centrelines. The work covers 1.2km of SH5, extending the existing wide centrelines from Whites Road to the new SH28-Harwoods Road roundabout. Stop/go traffic management will operate 24/7 until mid-December. Minor delays are expected. [More information](#)
- **SH28 north of Okoroire Road:** Road rebuilding is underway from 6am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Work is expected to finish at 6pm on Thursday 29 October, weather permitting. Stop/go traffic management and a temporary 30km/h speed limit are in place. Allow up to 10 minutes of extra travel time.
- **SH5 east of Taupō:** A road rebuild is underway on SH5 east of Taupō near Caroline Drive, between 6am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Work is scheduled to finish early to mid-December. During work hours, 2-way stop/go traffic management is in place. People travelling through the area should plan ahead and allow for delays of up to 10 minutes. A temporary 30km/h speed limit will be in place during and outside of work hours to keep everyone safe.

North Waikato

Work starting next week

- **Between SH2 links and Razorback Road:** There will be northbound lane restrictions from Sunday 4 to Thursday 8 October between 9pm and 5am. Razorback Road northbound on-ramp will also be closed. Traffic will still be able to travel north at all times.
- **SH1 Springhill Road to Island Block Road:** There will be a full northbound closure on Monday 5 October between 9pm and 5am. Traffic will still be able to travel north using one of the southbound lanes.

Tairāwhiti

- **SH35 Pōtaka to Tikitiki:** Over the next 3 months, roadworkers will complete a programme of work which includes repairing overslips and dropouts, improving drainage, widening sections of road and completing culvert work. Traffic management will be in place at work sites. Allow extra time and follow all signs and instructions.

Plan for a safe, enjoyable journey. Keep up to date with:

- [Traffic updates](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Journey Planner](#)
- **Phone: 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49)**