Roads of National Significance

As a small, sparsely populated country distant from world markets, New Zealand relies on a robust transport network to move people, goods and services safely and efficiently.

The country's State Highways provide the main links between our major areas of economic activity, facilitating the efficient transport of people and goods but congestion makes it difficult for businesses to operate and grow.

We are investing in infrastructure now to unlock future economic growth rather than waiting until the strain on the network becomes a handbrake on progress.

With the current seven Roads of National Significance projects either complete or under construction, the time has come for the next generation of nation building projects.

The projects are on our highest volume roads and are a sensible and logical extension of the original seven projects. Together they will help provide a strong and safe highway network that links our regions effectively with our major cities.

National is committed to building the infrastructure New Zealand needs to ensure our ongoing economic prosperity is secured.
Wellsford to Whangarei

National’s vision for the State Highway 1 link between Auckland and Whangarei is a safe road that provides reliable journey times to support the economic growth of the region.

That’s why connecting Northland through better transport links is an important objective in the National-led Government’s Northland Economic Action Plan (2016).

The current Pūhoi to Wellsford Road of National Significance will run approximately 38 kilometres through the Rodney area north of Auckland on State Highway 1. When completed, the road will extend the four lane Northern Motorway (SH1) from just south of Pūhoi to just north of Wellsford.

The new Wellsford to Whangarei Road of National Significance will support our objective of ensuring the future prosperity of Northland is realised by establishing transport links that grow and support the region’s economy. These will connect communities and employees to jobs as well as freight to ports, and airports to access key domestic and international markets.

Completing the link between Wellsford and Whangarei is a sensible and logical extension of the Pūhoi to Wellsford Road of National Significance that is currently under construction.

Project features

- Continuous four lane State Highway (two lanes each way)
- Separation from traffic coming from the other direction
- Wide lanes and wide, sealed shoulders
- Mainly grade separated intersections
- Safe roadsides clear of obstacles and ditches
- High standard landscaping and environmental controls
- High quality signage

Benefits

- ✓ Boost economic growth and productivity in Northland
- ✓ Reduce travel times between Auckland and Whangarei and wider Northland region
- ✓ Reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes
- ✓ Provide better access to key domestic and international markets through stronger and more reliable connections to major ports and airports
- ✓ Provide confidence in travel times for the freight industry supporting investment in Northland’s economy
- ✓ Enable new economic development and tourism opportunities in Northland
East West Link in Auckland

The Onehunga–Penrose area in Auckland is the engine room of New Zealand’s industrial and manufacturing economy. Many large distribution and logistics facilities are based there because it is close to State Highways, the rail network, the airport and the port. It

Over half of the country’s freight journeys take place across the upper North Island and are expected to double by 2035. With this strong forecast economic growth, access in and out of the industrial hub of Onehunga and Penrose will become increasingly more important.

The East West Link is one of the National-led Government’s top priority transport projects in Auckland.

The National-led Government is streamlining the consent process for the East West Link project in order to bring forward its construction to help support strong economic growth and the increased movement of freight.

Given the strategic importance of the East West Lin project to the national economy, a re-elected National-led Government will declare the project a Road of National Significance.

Benefits

- Improve the resilience of Auckland’s State Highway network by providing a further connection between State Highway 1 and State Highway 20
- Significantly improve connections to air, rail, freight and sea ports
- Improve travel times between the Onehunga–Penrose industrial area and State Highways 1 and 20
- Provide more reliable travel times between the eastern suburbs and Auckland Airport
- Support the growing Onehunga Town Centre by removing through traffic on Neilson Street (e.g. up to 27,000 less vehicles a day on the road through the town centre)
- Provide more reliable bus journey times between State Highway 20 and Onehunga
- Create better and more useable access for the community to the foreshore
- Improve walking and cycling routes between Māngere Bridge, Onehunga and Sylvia Park and access to Otahuhu
- Provide local road access to the Onehunga Wharf which will enable its future development
- Provide reliable journey times for buses travelling between Māngere Bridge and Onehunga

Delivering for New Zealanders
Authorised by G Hamilton, 41 Pipers Street, Wellington.
Cambridge to Tirau

Waikato is the fourth largest regional economy in New Zealand and includes several distinct sub-regional economies, like Hamilton City and the Coromandel Peninsula.

Waikato’s central location in the upper North Island makes it a nationally significant infrastructure corridor. That’s why in 2009 the National-led Government announced the $2.3 billion Waikato Expressway, a four-lane expressway from the Bombay Hills to south of Cambridge.

The Expressway will improve safety, reliability and reduce travel times and congestion on State Highway 1.

When complete the Waikato Expressway will be the key strategic transport highway for the Waikato region, connecting Auckland to the agricultural and business centres of Waikato and Bay of Plenty. It will improve economic growth and productivity for these regions through more efficient movement of people and freight.

Recognising the strategic importance of the Waikato Expressway to regional and national economic growth and the movement of people and freight, a re-elected National-led Government will commit to a new Cambridge to Tirau Road of National Significance. This will extend the Waikato Expressway further south.

Project features

- Continuous four lane State Highway (two lanes each way)
- Separation from traffic coming from the other direction
- Wide lanes and wide, sealed shoulders
- Mainly grade separated intersections
- Safe roadsides clear of obstacles and ditches
- High standard landscaping and environmental controls
- High quality signage

Benefits

- Boost economic growth and productivity
- Reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes
- Reduce travel times between Auckland and Tirau by around 40 minutes once completed and connected with the Waikato Expressway
- Improve the reliability of the State Highway network for the movement of people and freight between the central and upper North Island
- Provide better access to key domestic and international markets through stronger and more reliable connections to major ports and airports
Next Generation
Roads of National Significance

Piarere to the foot of the Kaimai Range

Often referred to as the ‘Golden Triangle’, Auckland to Tauranga via Hamilton on State Highways 1 and 29 is a high-volume freight route for the country.

Tauranga is linked to State Highway 1 via State Highway 29, over the Kaimai Range. Approximately 9,000 vehicles travel over the range daily, including around 1,300 heavy vehicles.

Forecasts show that greater projected freight volumes will use State Highway 29 as the preferred strategic route to and from the three economic centres of Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty. This makes State Highway 29 between Hamilton and Tauranga not only regionally important, but nationally significant. Further investment in State Highway 29 will support future economic growth and improve safety.

That’s why a re-elected National-led Government will commit to a new Road of National Significance between Piarere and the foot of the Kaimai Range. This represents the start of what will in time become the Hamilton to Tauranga Road of National Significance.

Project features

- Continuous four lane State Highway (two lanes each way)
- Separation from traffic coming from the other direction
- Wide lanes and wide, sealed shoulders
- Mainly grade separated intersections
- Safe roadsides clear of obstacles and ditches
- High standard landscaping and environmental controls
- High quality signage

Benefits

✓ Boost and support long-term economic growth and productivity
✓ Improve the safety of State Highway 29 by reducing the number of deaths and serious injury crashes
✓ Improve the reliability of the road between Auckland and Tauranga, via the Waikato Expressway
✓ Shorten travel times between Auckland and Tauranga, via the Waikato Expressway
✓ Provide better access to key domestic and international markets through stronger and more reliable connections to major ports and airports in Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty
Tauranga to Katikati

The Bay of Plenty is experiencing strong residential, commercial and industrial growth.

Local communities and businesses (particularly horticulture) continue to grow strongly along the Western Bay of Plenty’s coastal peninsulas of Katikati, Omokoroa and Te Puna.

Supporting this growth is State Highway 2 between Tauranga and Katikati in the Western Bay of Plenty. It’s one of New Zealand’s fastest growing roading corridors and is coming under increasing pressure from a rising number of commuter, tourist and freight movements. Increased traffic volumes are expected to continue in line with the forecast growth of the region.

State Highway 2 is also one of the most dangerous stretches of road in the country. Between 2012 and 2016 there were 18 fatalities between Tauranga and Katikati.

That’s why a re-elected National-led Government will commit to a new Road of National Significance between Tauranga and Katikati to support the strong economic growth and bring down the region’s road toll.

Project features

- Continuous four lane State Highway (two lanes each way)
- Separation from traffic coming from the other direction
- Wide lanes and wide, sealed shoulders
- Mainly grade separated intersections
- Safe roadsides clear of obstacles and ditches
- High standard landscaping and environmental controls
- High quality signage

Benefits

- Boost economic growth and productivity in the Bay of Plenty
- Significantly reduce fatal and serious injury accidents
- Better access to key domestic and international markets through stronger and more reliable connections to the Port of Tauranga
- Reduced travel times between Tauranga, Waihi, Coromandel and Auckland
- Improve safety for local residents and the community who live and travel along the route
- Better access to jobs and employment opportunities
- Reduced congestion in and out of the Tauranga
Napier to Hastings

Hawke’s Bay is experiencing a prolonged period of economic growth. The National-led Government has made significant investments to support and improve the region’s transport network.

Hawke’s Bay is a premium primary-sector export-led economy. Strong economic growth in the region – from the movement of goods from large scale horticulture production and processing industries based around the fertile Heretaunga Plains – is putting increased demand on the transport network.

Napier Port is also a key export port for the North Island, with a catchment area crossing several regions. Inter-regional connectivity is therefore vital to enable efficient freight supply chains to domestic and international markets.

National is committed to providing the Hawke’s Bay with the transport options it needs to support and grow its economy.

That’s why a re-elected National-led Government will construct a Road of National Significance connecting Napier and Hastings. It will more closely link the two cities and employees to jobs, as well as freight from across the central and lower North Island to Napier Port.

Project features

- Continuous four lane State Highway (two lanes each way)
- Separation from traffic coming from the other direction
- Wide lanes and wide, sealed shoulders
- Mainly grade separated intersections
- Safe roadsides clear of obstacles and ditches
- High standard landscaping and environmental controls
- High quality signage

Benefits

- Boost economic growth and productivity in Hawke’s Bay
- Provide safer and more reliable journeys between Napier and Hastings
- Reduce congestion and travel times
- Better access to jobs and employment opportunities
- Better access to key domestic and international markets through stronger connections to major ports and airports
- More reliable journey and travel time savings for freight operators and exporters
Manawatu Gorge

The Manawatu–Whanganui region’s position at the axis of the main routes in the lower North Island means it is ideally positioned to be a significant distribution hub for the national economy.

The Manawatu Gorge, which runs for 6-9 km between the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges, is a vital link between the Manawatu, Hawke’s Bay and Napier Port.

Large slips have closed the Manawatu Gorge since April 2017, with parts of the Gorge remaining unstable and at risk of further significant slips or rockfalls. The immediate risk of another large slip coming down in the Gorge has meant all repair work has ceased for safety reasons until further notice.

National understand how important the Gorge is for the region and the effective and efficient flow of people and freight in the lower North Island.

That’s why a re-elected National-led Government will declare the Manawatu Gorge a Road of National Significance. We will fund a permanent, long term solution that is more resilient, straighter, and flatter that takes into account the impacted communities.

Benefits

✓ Provide a long term resilient connection between the Manawatu and Hawke’s Bay

✓ Boost economic growth and productivity

✓ Make journeys more reliable for commuters and freight operators

✓ Support the growing movement of freight and people within and between the regions in the Central and Lower North Island
Levin to Sanson

The Wellington Northern Corridor improvements on State Highway 1 between Wellington Airport and Levin will provide a safe, efficient and reliable journey that communities and businesses can rely on to grow and prosper. The improvements are being constructed across eight different sections, and are currently at various stages of completion.

By 2021 a four-lane expressway will extend from Wellington to Levin providing a modern and safe state highway network that will accommodate future traffic volumes and enhance inter-regional and national economic growth and productivity.

National is committed to providing the lower North Island the necessary road transport links it needs to support ongoing economic growth.

That’s why a re-elected National-led Government will commit to a new Road of National Significance between Levin and Sanson. This is a sensible and logical extension to the north of the Wellington Northern Corridor.

Project features

- Continuous four lane State Highway (two lanes each way)
- Separation from traffic coming from the other direction
- Wide lanes and wide, sealed shoulders
- Mainly grade separated intersections
- Safe roadsides clear of obstacles and ditches
- High standard landscaping and environmental controls
- High quality signage

Benefits

- Boost economic growth and productivity across the lower and central North Island
- Better access to jobs and employment opportunities
- Reduce the number of fatal and serious accidents
- Make journey’s more reliable resulting in reduced travel times
- Provide better access to key domestic and international markets through stronger and more reliable connections to major ports and airports
- Reduce congestion on state highways and local roads
- Make State Highway 1 more resilient for natural disasters
Christchurch Northern Motorway

The National-led Government has invested approximately $900 million in the original Christchurch Roads of National Significance projects. This highway construction programme is the most ambitious ever seen in Christchurch.

The improved and new State Highways in the north, west and south of the city are reducing congestion, improving safety and supporting economic growth.

But strong growth in and around Christchurch, particularly in the Waimakariri District, is placing demand on the State Highways to the north of the city and around its western edge.

National is committed to providing Christchurch the necessary road transport links it needs to support ongoing growth.

That’s why a re-elected National-led Government will commit to a new Christchurch Northern Motorway Road of National Significance between Belfast and Pegasus.

The new motorway will include a realignment of State Highway 1 to bypass Woodend and will also include a third southbound lane on the Waimakariri Bridge.

Project features

- Continuous four lane State Highway (two lanes each way)
- Separation from traffic coming from the other direction
- Wide lanes and wide, sealed shoulders
- Mainly grade separated intersections
- Safe roadsides clear of obstacles and ditches
- High standard landscaping and environmental controls
- High quality signage

Benefits

✓ Boost economic growth and productivity
✓ Provide safer and more reliable journeys
✓ Reduce travel times for commuters and freight operators
✓ Ease traffic congestion in and out of Christchurch
✓ Better access to jobs and employment opportunities
✓ Improve connections with the CBD, International Airport, Port of Lyttelton and key industrial and employment centres
✓ Move heavy traffic flows out of Woodend and away from housing, schools and parks
Christchurch to Ashburton

As New Zealand’s largest region by land area and second largest by population, resilient and reliable transport networks are needed to continue supporting Canterbury’s strong growth.

State Highway 1 between Christchurch and Ashburton is a vital link for freight and tourism movements in the region and further down into the South Island.

National’s vision for the State Highway 1 link between Christchurch and Ashburton is a safe road that provides reliable journey times to support the economic growth of the region and access to key domestic and international markets.

We want to support the region’s growing export sector by strengthening the resilience and reliability of one of Canterbury’s most strategic freight routes.

That’s why a re-elected National-led Government will commit to constructing a Road of National Significance between Christchurch and Ashburton.

Project features

- Continuous four lane State Highway (two lanes each way)
- Separation from traffic coming from the other direction
- Wide lanes and wide, sealed shoulders
- Mainly grade separated intersections
- Safe roadsides clear of obstacles and ditches
- High standard landscaping and environmental controls
- High quality signage

Benefits

- Boost economic growth and productivity in Canterbury
- Reduce the number of fatal and serious crash accidents
- Considerably reduce travel times between Christchurch and Ashburton
- Improve the efficient movement of people and freight in Canterbury
- Connect communities and employees to jobs
- Provide better access to key domestic and international markets through stronger and more reliable connections to major ports and airports, such as Christchurch International Airport, Port of Lyttelton and Port of Timaru