

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	State Highway 3 (Bell Block - Waitara)
Date	8 August 2018
Briefing number	BRI-1434

Contacts for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
Brett Gliddon	General Manager, System Design & Delivery	s9(2)(a)	s9(2)(a)	✓
Simon Barnett	Principal Transport Planner	s9(2)(a)	s9(2)(a)	

Action taken by Minister's Office

- Noted
- Seen by Minister
- Agreed
- Feedback provided
- Forwarded to
- Needs change [please specify]
- Withdrawn
- Overtaken by events

8 August 2018

Minister of Transport

State Highway 3 (Bell Block - Waitara)

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information on proposed improvements to State Highway 3 (SH3) between Bell Block and Waitara in New Plymouth.
2. Neil Holdom, Mayor of New Plymouth District Council, is due to speak with you on Thursday 9 August about safety concerns relating to this section of SH3, as detailed in his letter dated 3 August 2018.
3. The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) is finalising detailed investigations on SH3 to improve safety and ease congestion between Waitara and Bell Block. A preferred option is expected to be confirmed later this year. As part of this process, the NZTA is investigating options to stage implementation to allow some of the more straight forward safety upgrades to be fast-tracked.

Detailed investigations on SH3 (Bell Block and Waitara) are nearing completion

4. Making SH3 safer is a priority for the NZTA. The NZTA has been working closely with the New Plymouth District Council, local residents and other key stakeholders to undertake detailed investigations on SH3 between Bell Block and Waitara to improve safety, reduce crashes and ease congestion.
5. In March 2017, the community was asked to share their views on the issues and experiences with the road. This information was used to shape the NZTA's investigations and options for improving the highway. Over the 2017/18 summer period, the community was asked to provide feedback on these potential options.
6. Following consultation, and further investigations, more extensive works were undertaken to develop the recommended option.
7. This work is now drawing to a close, with the preferred option (including timeframes for implementation) expected to be confirmed by the NZTA within the next three months.
8. Once the preferred option is confirmed, the NZTA will update the New Plymouth District Council and affected local residents before wider public announcements are made.
9. At this stage, the proposed package of improvements on SH3 between Bell Block and Waitara includes:
 - roundabouts at high-risk intersections providing safer and efficient access to and from the state highway
 - changing some intersections so there is no right turn in or out of roads coming off the highway
 - a consistent speed limit
 - re-marking the road to increase the current width of road shoulders
 - installing flexible roadside safety barriers

- installing flexible median barriers or widening the centreline
- installing rumble strips on the side and centre of the road
- removing passing lanes and adding slow vehicle lanes on roundabout exits to allow vehicles to pass slower traffic more efficiently
- improving signage, road markings and traffic islands
- installing a pedestrian underpass at Princess Street to make it safer and easier for people to cross the state highway.

Next Steps

10. In parallel with the detailed design phase, the NZTA will be progressing the land purchase and consenting processes, both of which will need to be approved before construction activities can begin.
11. As part of the process of finalising the preferred option, the NZTA is investigating options to fast-track the more straight forward safety upgrades on the route.
12. The delivery timeframes for SH3 improvements between Bell Block and Waitara will be informed by the 2018-2021 National Land Transport Programme, which is due to be adopted by the Transport Agency Board at the end of the month.

Out of Scope

18. The NZTA's Director Regional Relationships (Central North Island), Parekawhia McLean, is seeking a meeting with Mayor Holdom and the Council's Chief Executive in the [redacted] to discuss the SH3 improvements between Bell Block and Waitara, and [redacted].

Out of Scope

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the information provided.

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Brett Gliddon

Group Manager, System Design and Delivery

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Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport

Date: 2018