

# Ring Road – Wairere Dr Extension project update

## FEBRUARY 2018 – WE’RE READY TO PREPARE THE SITE FOR CONSTRUCTION

Hamilton City Council’s Ring Road project is in the final stages; connecting Wairere Dr to Cobham Dr.

Heading south from Cambridge Rd, Wairere Dr will be four lanes (two in each direction), and Cobham Dr will be raised on an embankment to allow Wairere Dr to pass underneath (see plan). This means pedestrian and cycle access on the shared paths of Wairere Dr will be on the same level, and removes the need for a separate pedestrian overbridge across Cobham Dr. The works are broadly planned to be completed in two stages and are funded in partnership with NZ Transport Agency:

### Enabling works stage (beginning now through to August 2018).

This stage will be focused on shifting and replacing existing major services like water pipes and power lines, realigning the nearby stream/gully so that it is away from where the new road will be built, and installing new large stormwater pipes. To do this work we’ll need to clear most of the trees and vegetation from the site. We need to clear a large area and we are taking an ‘every tree is important’ approach and working closely with the contractor to remove only what we have to.

#### First activities onsite will include:

- Early February – our contractor will begin site setup including installing safety fencing around the work areas and building a new walking and cycling diversion track around the site near Hungerford Cres.
- Mid-February – site clearance and vegetation removal will commence following approval by Council of only the essential trees that need to go.
- Late-February – earthworks and stormwater pipe installation will begin.

No major traffic disruptions are expected during this stage as most work is well away from existing roads.

### Main construction stage (beginning late 2018 through to approximately 2020).

This will be the final stage of work and will include the road construction from Cambridge Rd to Cobham Dr and the new traffic overbridge. During this phase, all the permanent walking and cycling paths will be built and we will do all the remaining landscaping and special ecological planting.

The final stage will begin in late 2018 (next summer) and will require substantial traffic management operations to safely complete the work. This stage is a little way off yet and we will be letting you know about this work well in advance as well as holding an information day to explain the project.

Work is underway on developing the attached concept plan into detailed construction plans for the main construction stage. In addition to the coming information day, we’ll be in contact with some individual property owners near the work site to talk through the design and specifically what you can expect to see near your property as part of this project.

No contractor has been appointed for the main construction phase and this work is planned to be put out for public tender in June/July 2018. We’ll keep you updated on this process.

# Questions, answers and further information

## Further information on the project is available at [hamilton.govt.nz/ringroad](http://hamilton.govt.nz/ringroad)

The contractor appointed for the enabling works stage is GT Civil Universal Underground Joint Venture (GTUU) who will be onsite from late January 2018. If you have any concerns relating to day to day works on site please feel free to contact Nathan Thomas, Project Manager on **021 856 187** or email [nathan@gtcivil.co.nz](mailto:nathan@gtcivil.co.nz).

For any overall queries about the project feel free to contact the Hamilton City Council's City Development Unit on **07 838 6699**.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

**Q: Now that Council is building the traffic overbridge instead of the roundabout, is any more land required?**

**A:** The footprint is larger, however all the land we need is already owned by the Council.

**Q: Dey St service lane work was finished last year. Does this need changing?**

**A:** No, Dey St and property driveways should stay the same. The white wooden sight rail is only temporary and will be replaced with a noise fence toward the end of the project, but that's about it.

**Q: Will any large trees be removed?**

**A:** Yes, there are unfortunately some nice old and large trees within the project footprint that must be removed. We will be working closely to leave as many as we can because we like them too! We're also planning a major planting and landscaping project designed by ecological experts.

**Q: Will these works affect traffic?**

**A:** The first stage is away from existing roads, but once the main construction begins next summer, there will be traffic management in place, particularly on Cobham Dr. This is a little way off yet and we plan on giving plenty of notice and communicating our plans and what to expect before we start.

**Q: How will traffic on Cambridge Rd be affected during construction?**

**A:** Existing roads, especially Cambridge Rd, will continue to cater for traffic for longer than originally planned. Our traffic counts show current levels are manageable, but the city is still growing fast. We are monitoring this throughout the city and we've planned some safety improvement work on Cambridge Rd. Once Wairere Dr is connected to Cobham Dr, and other smaller projects are underway/completed, we anticipate that traffic volumes, especially trucks, will reduce. This is because they will have an alternative route in place via Wairere Dr and Cobham Dr.

**Q: How has community feedback been captured and used in developing this project?**

**A:** The community has been involved with the Ring Road journey since the designation was notified in 2005, when extensive consultation was carried out with the public and numerous other key stakeholders. Many key details included in the project came from that consultation, including the shared walking and cycling path, pedestrian crossing facilities, and the input into the landscaping and urban design aspects. More recently, the community was involved in the designation for the Southern Links transport network which overlaps with the Ring Road designation in this location and includes provision for building the new overbridge.

Ongoing information days and project updates have kept the community and the wider city informed of progress and given the opportunity for feedback on important aspects.

We plan to continue these updates and information days throughout the work to make sure you know about any changes or developments with the project and ensure the community has ample chance to see and understand what these might mean.