



Mt Messenger and Awakino Gorge corridor



BENEFITS

The project will improve safety and route availability along this key transport corridor.

The project objectives are to:

- reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries from crashes
- reduce the number and duration of road closures
- improve journey time predictability
- improve drivers' experience along the corridor.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section of SH3, Taranaki's main route north, runs through rough terrain and is winding and narrow. A number of interventions are proposed across the corridor to improve safety, route availability and travel times.

The improvements will be delivered in a number of individual projects. These are:

- safety, route availability and driver experience
- bypass of the Awakino Tunnel
- bypass of Mt Messenger.

BACKGROUND

Initial corridor investigations were carried out by the Ministry of Works and Development for the National Roads Board in the 1970s and 1980s. Since then a number of studies and investigations have been completed.

The recent business case has confirmed that there are ongoing safety, route availability and travel time issues, due to poor road layout along the corridor. Poor alignment has resulted in a number of deaths, serious injuries and road closures over recent years.

Key improvements range from smoothing curves, shoulder widening, new passing opportunities, bypassing key bottlenecks, better traveller information and new pull-off and rest areas.

COST AND FUNDING SOURCE

The bypasses of the Awakino Tunnel and Mt Messenger (\$89-105 million) will be funded by the Crown as part of the Government's Accelerated Regional Roothing Programme.

Implementation of the corridor-wide improvements (\$25-30 million) is included in the National Land Transport Programme 2015-18.

Together, the improvements on SH3 north of Taranaki will total \$114-135 million.

DATES

Anticipated construction starts are:

1. Safety and resilience improvements - 2017/18 with a duration of 12 months.
2. Awakino Tunnel bypass - 2018/19 with a duration of 24 months.
3. Mt Messenger bypass - 2018/19 with a duration of 24 months.