



# Loop Road North to Smeatons Hill safety improvements



### BENEFITS

This project will support the local community by providing safety improvements and more reliable travel times.

The project objectives are to:

- improve safety at the intersections of Loop Road and Portland Road with SH1
- reduce travel delays, especially for freight, turning right onto SH1 from Loop Road and improved travel time reliability.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Improvements to the SH1 and Loop Road intersection to make it safer and easier to use. This is part of the important strategic link between Auckland and Whangarei.

### BACKGROUND

Loop Road is the southern portion of an 'inland freight route', which crosses SH1 south of Whangarei. The intersection with the state highway is a critical connection for the Northland forestry sector on the journey to and from Northport at Marsden Point, where logs are sent for export.

At this location, SH1 is carrying approximately 15,000 vehicles per day. A high percentage is heavy freight traffic (13%), collecting a significant portion of forestry traffic in Northland.

With increasing traffic volumes in a high speed environment, there is a growing safety risk and operational delays for freight traffic at this location.

A number of studies have been carried out previously, including in 2007 and 2011 and an initial business case has been undertaken. A short-list of options has been developed to improve the safety and operation of the intersection for freight operators and all road users. A further detailed business case will confirm the preferred option. This decision will be guided by the wider Auckland to Whangarei corridor work, which is being progressed in parallel.

### COST

\$7-10 million.

### FUNDING SOURCE

Implementation of this project is included in the National Land Transport Programme 2015-18.

### DATES

It is anticipated construction will start in 2017/18, taking 24 months to complete.