

The East West Link – A new type of state highway

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The presentation will focus on the development of this new state highway that improves safety for all modes of transport while providing opportunities for significant environmental enhancements. This not a motorway but a 4 lane arterial road, and needs to balance travel time efficiency with the need for public access across and along the corridor.

The East West Link (EWL) is a new 6.5km state highway between SH1 and SH20 on the northern edge of the Manukau Harbour. It also includes widening of SH1 between Mt Wellington Interchange and the Princes Street Interchange with a new lane in each direction, (refer attached sketch).

The EWL includes the naturalisation of the existing highly modified coastal edge, which provides opportunities for enhanced public access and water quality improvements for the wider catchment in addition to the new road, assisting to restore the mana of the Māngere Inlet. The project also provides the opportunity to eliminate or minimise pumping of leachate from the historic landfills along the coast to the treatment plant and provide treatment through the new wetlands.

Cycling and walking improvements include an extension of the Waikaraka shared path through to Sylvia Park.

The project is working towards Greenroads Certification with an initial assessment of the design features, management and mitigation measures that will contribute to the certification. The adoption of Greenroads provides a whole of life lens through which better social, environmental and economic outcomes can be driven, and a framework for capturing best practice and innovation.

The project has been lodged with the EPA in December and a Board of Inquiry hearing is expected around the middle of 2017.

The project is being delivered as a Planning Alliance, with the NZ Transport Agency, planning and design consultants and a legal firm