

26 June 2025

Daran Ponter
Chair
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Dr Rachel Kneedwell
Chair
Horizons Regional Council

Bernie Wanden
Mayor
Horowhenua District Council

Lawrence Kirby
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Darrin Apanui
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Adrienne Staples
Chair
Wellington Regional Land Transport Committee

By email to: daran.ponter@gw.govt.nz

Ref. NZT-10700

Dear all

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2025 regarding the design changes being considered for the Ōtaki to North of Levin (Ō2NL) project and requesting to speak directly to the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) Board at its next meeting.

At its meeting on Thursday 19 June 2025, the NZTA Board confirmed additional funding for the project to ensure that it will progress through to construction, including some features from the originally consented concept design.

As a result of the Board's decision, the following elements of the project will be reinstated.

- The new highway connection with Tararua Road in Levin, which will be a grade-separated interchange;
- The southern connection, near Taylors Road, will include a southbound onramp, allowing vehicles travelling south on the current SH1 to join the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway north of Ōtaki; and
- The local road at Manakau Heights will be connected across the new highway via a bridge.

I'm looking forward to the Ō2NL project delivering a more efficient, resilient and safer highway which is firmly focused on enabling future growth and development in one of New Zealand's fastest growing districts. With the project's scope and funding now confirmed, NZTA will begin construction later this year and continue its work with the Horowhenua District Council, alongside the partnership with Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, local hapū of Ngāti Raukawa te au ki te Tonga.

If you would like to discuss this further with NZTA, please contact Linda Stewart, Director Regional Relationships (Taranaki/Hawkes Bay/Gisborne/Manawatu), by email to linda.stewart@nzta.govt.nz, or via phone on 027 801 6434.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Bridges', with a stylized, cursive script.

Simon Bridges
NZTA Board Chair