



1 View south towards Tamahere 2 View west towards Hamilton Airport 3 Hamilton City Cobham Bridge

Hamilton Southern Links

Project Location: Hamilton

AECOM for NZ Transport Agency

Disciplines: Civil, Transport, Traffic, Environmental, Water Systems, Geotechnical



The Southern Links project is a complex planning, engineering and transport assessment for a future network, aimed at unlocking economic productivity for Hamilton City and the wider Waikato region.

AECOM was appointed as the lead consultants to plan for the long-term transportation and integrated land use infrastructure needs of the southern Hamilton area.

Protecting the corridor for the preferred network is vital for city growth, enabling good long-term planning. The investigation involved 32 kilometres of future transport network, including 21km of state highway (straddling Waipa District, Hamilton City, and Waikato District) and 11km of urban arterial roads located within Hamilton City.

Southern Links involved a complex investigation. Consideration of multiple factors informed the evaluation, including the economic, environmental, social and cultural elements for each link in the network to protect the land for future infrastructure.

The innovative project sought an extended 20-year lapse for the network designations. This is a forward-looking approach from both clients to route protection, in contrast with the standard practice of “just in time” designations, where the construction of the project follows closely after gaining the designation. This required significant effort and innovative approaches to communicate the meaning to stakeholders and the regulatory bodies, and how it differed from normal practice.

Southern Links was one of the first projects to adopt the Safe System approach which requires all system project design philosophy to provide for road safety outcomes. This was well communicated through the project team, clients and stakeholders. Similarly, the early adoption of the NZ Transport Agency’s One Network philosophy represents an exemplar for other projects.

The Southern Links project represents best practice in the consideration and documentation of alternative sites, routes, and methods for a major infrastructure project. This is proven in that the route selection process and the consideration of alternatives was virtually unchallenged by submitters, and was readily accepted by Territorial Local Authority reporting staff and the hearings commissioners.

Judging & Copyright Statement

This project is a Finalist entry in the 2016 INNOVATE NZ Awards of Excellence competition. The winners will be announced on Friday 2 September, 2016.

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