



1 Domain Road Interchange 2 Kaituna River Bridge 3 General view of highway

Tauranga Eastern Link

Project Location: Auckland

AECOM for Fulton Hogan HEB Construction Alliance

Disciplines: Highway and Bridge Design



The Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL) is the Bay of Plenty's largest roading project and a vital strategic transport corridor for the region. One of the seven Roads of National Significance (RoNS), it is a key project for moving freight to the Port of Tauranga from Rotorua and the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The \$455 million project is integral to NZ Transport Agency's overall goals of improving journey reliability, route safety, reducing travel time, and enabling a heavy transport route for logging and kiwi fruit exports.

Open to the public in August 2015 (five months ahead of programme and under budget), TEL comprises a 23km four-lane dual carriageway, 17km of new road, upgrades to 6km of existing road, major interchanges, local road bridges and connections, noise mitigation, work adjacent to existing railway, and significant earthworks and stormwater challenges.

Seven new structures along the TEL include a 150m viaduct across environmentally-sensitive Kaituna River, a major interchange at Domain Road and a crossing of the East Coast Main Trunk railway. TEL brings the East Cape and the central North Island closer to the Port of Tauranga. The new highway has taken 3km or 12 minutes off the route, translating to an extra trip per day for some freight operators.

The new road improves safety, reducing death and serious injury crash rates in the region. Over 8000 vehicles use the TEL daily, with only 6000 predicted. Being a very geotechnically challenging roading project required the team to combine old and new design and construction methodologies to address challenging soft ground conditions.

The Domain Road Interchange is the most innovative aspect of the project due to solutions developed for geometrics (including eliminating the need to relocate a substation) and overcoming settlement issues associated with weak soils.

The project was procured by NZTA as a competitive Design and Construct contract with a construction alliance of Fulton Hogan and HEB (FHHCA). AECOM lead and coordinated a design team that included Opus International Consultants, Gaia Engineers and Bartleys. Co-location of designers and constructors during tender and design led to a highly collaborative environment. AECOM personnel lead the geometrics, civil, stormwater and environmental design teams.

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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