

Building the Future: Mill Road



National knows that when Auckland succeeds, New Zealand succeeds.

Auckland is New Zealand's capital city of growth. It is home to one third of New Zealand's population and contributes nearly 40% to our national GDP. It has higher labour productivity than the rest of New Zealand, and is home to some of New Zealand's most exciting growth-industries, with 116 of our country's top 200 tech firms calling Auckland home.

We are not going to be successful in growing our economy if we don't think carefully about how we enable Auckland, as our largest and most important city, to thrive. If it is congested and hard to get around, the whole country pays for it through increased prices being passed on to consumers.

Under this National-led Government, Auckland has started moving again. But there is more work to do. We have to keep investing in the state highway network that our growing city depends on.

Building on National's investments in Auckland

National has already put the foundations in place to support Auckland's growth.

- We scrapped **Auckland's Regional Fuel Tax** on 30 June 2024, taking 11.5 cents a litre off the price of petrol and diesel for Auckland motorists.
- Invested in critical new **Roads of National Significance** in Northland and Waikato, to improve regional connectivity for people and freight heading to and from Auckland.
- The **City Rail Link** is open - National funded it, and National has seen it completed. The CRL will fundamentally change the way Auckland's rail network operates, with faster journeys, more frequent services, and better connections across the city.

- We have delivered the reforms to **Auckland transport governance** restoring democracy and accountability to transport in our largest city and laying the foundations for a joint Crown/Council 30-year transport plan.
- The **Third Main Line**, electrification to Pukekohe, and new stations at Drury and Paerātā are now open, with a third to open at Ngākōroa next year. That means more reliable train journeys, and rail access for the fastest-growing communities in the south.
- We are also investing in the wider **rapid transit network**, so Aucklanders can get to where they need to go faster and more reliably, with the \$1.4 billion **Eastern Busway** under construction, and the **Northwestern Busway** has been progressed through fast-track.
- Funded the acceleration of **level crossing removals** in Takanini and Glen Innes, improving safety for pedestrians and efficiency for motorists by unlocking the full benefits of City Rail Link.

A re-elected National Government will:

- Fund construction of **Mill Road Stage One**, between Manukau and Alfriston.
- Progress route protection work on **Mill Road Stages Two and Three**, between Alfriston and Drury.

Mill Road Stage One (Manukau to Alfriston)

South Auckland is one of the fastest-growing parts of the country, and Drury is at the centre of it. But the roading network hasn't kept up. People travelling between Drury, Papakura and Manukau are funnelled onto an already congested Southern Motorway, and roads like Redoubt Road and Mill Road were built for a semi-rural community, not tens of thousands of new households.

Mill Road will change that. Once complete, it will be a new four-lane, 21.5-kilometre corridor running alongside State Highway 1 from Manukau to Drury, crushing congestion, improving safety, and unlocking land for the homes and jobs the region needs.

Mill Road Stage One is one of the highest ranked projects on the Government's Major Transport Project Pipeline. Published by this government, the pipeline sets the order for major transport projects based on value for money, and how quickly they can be delivered. Funding this project, which has already been identified as ready to build, is the responsible next step.

This project is also identified as a priority project in the Auckland Regional Deal, as well as identified in the NZTA Auckland Motorway Strategic Plan.

Stage One is expected to deliver:

- a four-lane corridor, with a westbound bus lane at the northern end.
- two new and six upgraded intersections between the SH1 interchange and Murphys Road, plus three new roundabouts.
- new bridges across Puhinui Creek and Cheesman's Bush.
- a 30 percent reduction in congestion on the corridor, 25 percent faster journey times, and a more than 60 percent reduction in deaths and serious injuries.

It also demonstrates strong value for money, returning up to \$3.10 in benefits (untolled) or \$2.20 in benefits for every dollar invested (tolled).

National will fund Mill Road Stage One through a Crown Capital contribution in Budget 2028.

Mill Road Stages Two and Three (Alfriston to Drury)

National is committed to completing Mill Road all the way to Drury. Stages Two and Three will connect the corridor directly into the heart of the Drury growth area.

For too long, landowners along the route have lived with uncertainty about where the road will go and how their properties will be impacted. That isn't fair on them, and it holds back development in the area.

A National Government will allocate \$100 million to NZTA to progress route protection for Stages Two and Three as soon as possible, giving landowners, developers and Auckland Council the certainty they need to plan properly.

Progressing route protection for Stages Two and Three was a key commitment in the Auckland Regional Deal. We will also continue to work with Auckland Council, through the new Auckland Regional Transport Committee, to confirm the timing of Stages Two and Three in Auckland's 30-year transport plan.

Fiscal impact

National will commit \$1.75 billion of Crown capital in Budget 2028, held in tagged contingency for the construction of Mill Road Stage One (Manukau to Alfriston).

\$1.75 billion will be provided based on the 2025 NZTA Investment Case. Any additional costs will be met from the State Highway Improvements Activity class of National Land Transport Fund. This is the same approach taken in Budget 2026 to fund Cambridge to Piarere.

\$100 million of Crown capital is being allocated to progress route protection on Mill Road Stages Two and Three (Alfriston to Drury). This cost is consistent with recent NZTA funding approvals for comparable Roads of National Significance.

Capital (\$m)	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total
Mill Road Stage One	-	\$1,750.00	-	-	\$1,750.00
Mill Road Stages Two and Three route protection	\$100.00	-	-	-	\$100.00
Net cost to the Crown	\$100.00	\$1,750.00	-	-	\$1,850.00