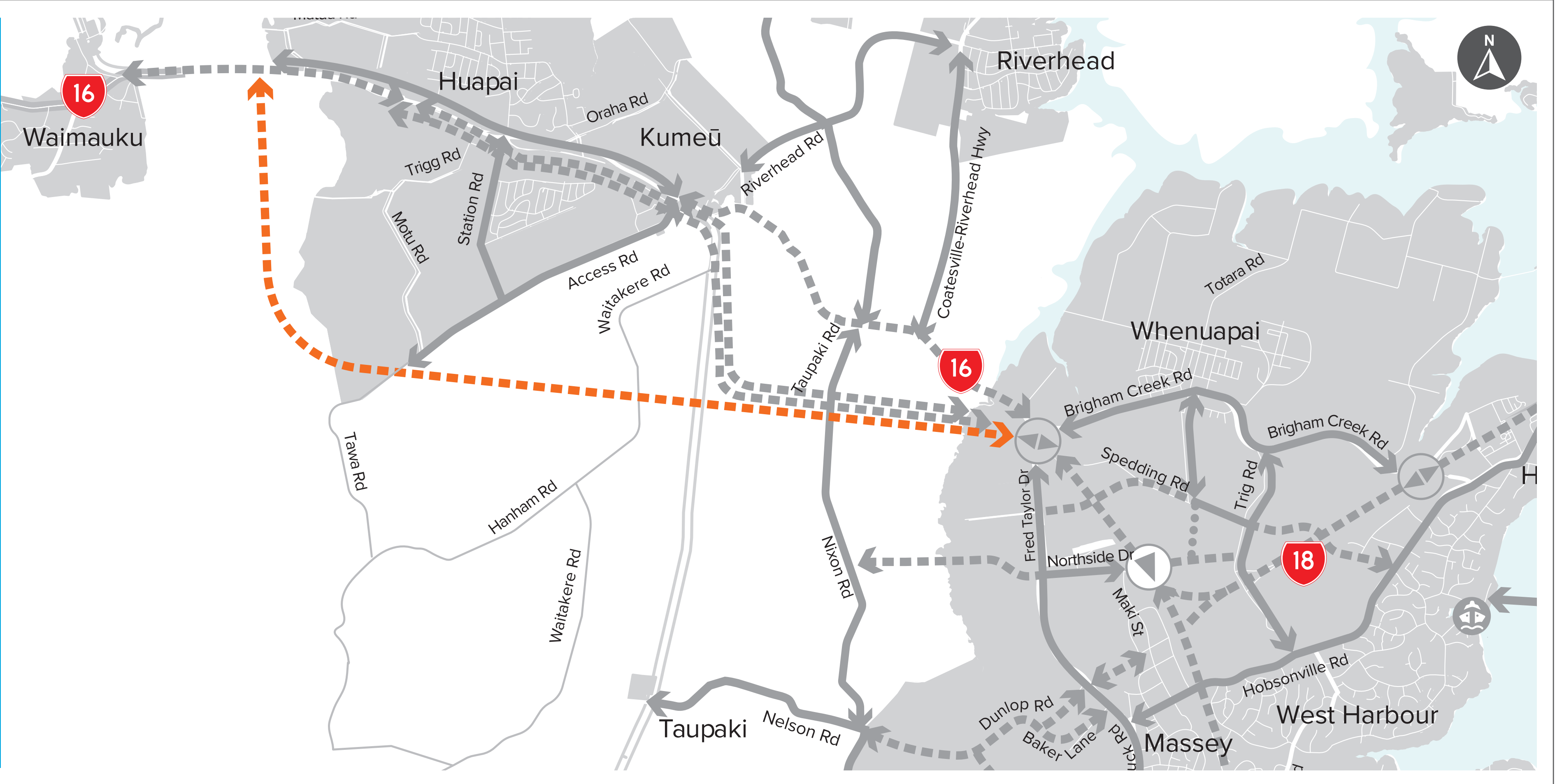


# ALTERNATIVE STATE HIGHWAY FOR KUMEŪ-HUAPAI

The project described in this profile has been identified by an indicative business case and will require further technical investigation and engagement before its final detail, location or land requirement is confirmed. It is also yet to be prioritised for funding for delivery over the next 10-30 years.



## Purpose

The proposed Alternative State Highway corridor is a new strategic connection that will support the transition of the current SH16 alignment (Main Road) through the township into an urban arterial that better integrates with the surrounding land use and provides for a wider range of travel choices.

The exact form and function of this corridor is still to be determined but it is expected to be a limited access road.

## Description

An Alternative State Highway corridor south of Kumeū-Huapai from SH16 Bringham Creek roundabout to east of Waimauku. To support the new corridor, and as part of wider state highway improvements in the area, the SH16 Bringham Creek roundabout is also expected to become a full interchange (refer *State Highway 16/18 Connections* project profile).

## Key Benefits

The new corridor will allow the existing SH16 (Main Road) to become a more important part of a thriving town centre, reduce reliance on this route for long distance through traffic, and help provide for a wider range of travel choices including rapid transit/public transport, walking and cycling.

The new corridor will improve resilience and travel time for traffic in the area, and provide access to new housing and employment areas in the new southern Kumeū-Huapai growth area.

## Current status

In 2018, engagement with the community was undertaken on a range of options for this proposed new alternative corridor, all to the south of the current SH16 alignment. All of the options followed the outer edges of the southern growth area, in order to avoid future safety and severance issues as the

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area develops. The options also provided for controlled (limited) access to the southern future urban zone area and aimed to remove traffic from the existing Main Road (SH16) through Kumeū-Huapai township. Options to the north of the current SH16 alignment were discounted at an early stage of investigation because of challenging environmental features and greater predicted travel demands for the future southern area of Kumeū-Huapai.

This indicative corridor for the Alternative State Highway to the south of the current SH16 route was approved in mid-2019. The new corridor is proposed to begin at the SH16 Brigham Creek roundabout (which is also proposed to be upgraded to a full interchange alongside other state highway improvements in the area – refer *State Highway 16/18 Connections* project profile). The indicative network has also proposed that an extension to the Rapid Transit line could be located along the first section of the alternative corridor, before following the current heavy rail line into the Kumeū-Huapai town centre.

At this stage, we have a general study area for this project within which we will do further investigation. In particular, more work needs to be done on the exact location of the connection point to the existing SH16 corridor, east of Waimauku, which is indicatively near Fosters Road. More investigation will also be undertaken into the location of the proposed extension of the rapid transit corridor in relation to the Alternative State Highway corridor.

## Next steps

During the next phase of work, the project team will consider alignment options for the Alternative State Highway corridor, including how it may connect back to SH16 near Waimauku, interact with strategic arterials and the proposed extension of the rapid transit line. This will include technical investigations as well as further engagement with project partners, stakeholders, landowners and the community.

The Alternative State Highway corridor is expected to be progressed for delivery in line

with the anticipated rezoning and land release timeframes of the wider Kumeū-Huapai future growth areas (which are planned to be ‘development ready’ by 2028-2032). There is no funding for construction of the Alternative State Highway Corridor this current decade. In the meantime, other upgrades for SH16 continue to be progressed by the NZ Transport Agency.