



Dunedin to Port Chalmers walking & cycling path project

NEWS UPDATE

August 2016



The NZ Transport Agency is working through finalising the revised plan to finish the final 5km leg of the State Highway 88 (SH88) shared cycling/walking path between St Leonards and Port Chalmers, after the original design for this section of the path came in well over budget.

When fully completed, this path will provide a safe walking and cycling alternative to SH88 between Dunedin and Port Chalmers. This narrow and busy highway carries most of the heavy vehicles servicing the Port Chalmers shipping container terminal.

The Transport Agency has shared some of its high-level thinking around the revised plan with the Chalmers Community Board. The revised plan is expected to be available before the end of the year for community comment.

There is no pre-determined figure that must be arrived at to ensure the project is funded. The focus is on finding a value for money solution, that achieves the original project aim of a separate shared walking and cycling path linking Dunedin and Port Chalmers. The path needs to be completed right through to Port Chalmers to realise its full benefits, so it is not simply a case of constructing half now and half later.

THE WAY FORWARD

The most expensive leg of the original project plan was the proposed reclamation and rail realignment at Mussel Bay near Port Chalmers. A more affordable alternative being put forward in the Draft Plan involves upgrading the existing footpath to a walking and cycling path.

The NZ Transport Agency acknowledges that the pinch points in this proposal are less than ideal, but it does provide a far safer alternative route for pedestrians and cyclists to using SH88. The proposed reclamation and rail realignment at Mussel Bay, needed to accommodate a three metre wide path, remains an option in the long term planning for the shared path.

When the final section of the shared path opens, users will enjoy a safe continuous cycle and walking link between Dunedin and Port Chalmers, as will the communities along the route. It will also provide convenient connections to the wider Dunedin City cycle network.

The project supports the NZ Transport Agency's urban cycling priority, which is to encourage cycling as a safe and attractive way of travelling in our main urban areas. Construction on the final stage of the SH88 shared path isn't likely to start until 2018.



If you require any additional information, please contact Jason Forbes: jason.forbes@nzta.govt.nz

www.nzta.govt.nz/SH88sharedpath

Photos courtesy of Antony Hamel.