

What are the roads of national significance?

The government has identified roads of national significance that are critical for supporting economic growth, reducing congestion and improving safety in our region.

There are a number of projects in the Christchurch roads of national significance programme, located in the Northern Corridor, Southern Corridor and Western Corridor.

The Northern Arterial and QEII Drive four-laning project is part of the Northern Corridor package.

For more information visit the NZTA website:
www.nzta.govt.nz



The Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy

The Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) is a 35-year plan for managing growth in Greater Christchurch. The UDS integrates the planning, funding and implementation of land use, transport and infrastructure.

The UDS partners are the NZ Transport Agency, Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, Waimakariri District Council and Selwyn District Council. All the roads of national significance projects are included in the UDS and are integral to achieving the UDS vision of a sustainable transport system that supports prosperous communities.

For more information go to www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz

What do you think?

We value your feedback on the proposed Northern Arterial and four-laning of QEII Drive between Main North Road and Innes Road. In general the route is already fixed and needs to be four lanes – so these aspects can't be changed. How the roads fit into the surrounding area though, has still to be decided.

You can submit feedback by the following means:

Post the completed feedback form:

Fill in your comments, include your contact details, fold and tape the edges together before posting.

Email feedback to:

northernarterial@nzta.govt.nz

Use the online submission form on the project website:

www.nzta.govt.nz/northernarterial

Please send in your feedback before consultation closes on 19 March 2010. Letters will be sent to all submitters acknowledging receipt of their feedback.

What happens next?

The next stage of consultation is expected to occur later in 2010, when information on possible options will be available.

Want to know more?

For more information contact:

Steve Baker
Opus International Consultants
Phone: (03) 363 5400

Stuart Penfold
NZ Transport Agency
Phone: (03) 963 3228



Northern Arterial and Queen Elizabeth II Drive Four-laning



The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) is currently investigating options for the proposed Northern Arterial and improvements to a section of QEII Drive.

Options are being investigated for a new four-lane arterial road that extends the existing Christchurch Northern Motorway (SH1) to connect with Queen Elizabeth II Drive (QEII Drive – SH74) and the widening of QEII Drive to four lanes between Main North Road and Innes Road.

As part of the investigation process, the NZTA is now consulting with potentially affected landowners, interest groups and the greater Christchurch community to obtain feedback and to identify issues and opportunities.

This initial phase of consultation aims to gather community feedback on issues and opportunities the NZTA should be considering to achieve integration between the state highway, road users, local communities, adjacent development and the local road network. This will be followed by further consultation once preliminary options are progressed.

Why is this project needed?

The existing State Highway 74 (Main North Road) passing through the urban area of Belfast currently provides the main access from the north to the Christchurch City centre, and to Lyttelton Port via QEII Drive.

Around 37,000 vehicles per day use Main North Road creating congestion reducing the safety and efficiency of transport using this vital road.

QEII Drive currently carries over 20,000 vehicles per day, which is projected to increase with ongoing development. The construction of the Northern Arterial will require the addition of two lanes on QEII Drive between Main North Road and Innes Road to avoid congestion and delays for traffic travelling on this route to Lyttelton Port.

The Belfast community suffers from having such a major roadway cutting through the middle of the area, discouraging walking, cycling and restricting public transport.

As traffic volumes grow congestion will worsen, and safety and public health concerns will increase around the Main North Road/ Belfast Area.

The Belfast area is identified for future urban growth in the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy. The Belfast Area Plan, prepared by the Christchurch City Council (CCC), provides for a strategic direction for managing the growth of Belfast and identifies the Northern Arterial as critical for successful implementation of that Plan.

A little background

The existing section of the Northern Motorway was completed in the early 1970s and is a key part of the wider Christchurch strategic transportation network.

The Christchurch City Plan has identified a future state highway bypassing the Belfast and Redwood area for over 35 years.

Recent transportation studies have also confirmed the need for this arterial, which forms part of an overall transport plan jointly managed by the NZTA, CCC and Environment Canterbury.

The plan has an integrated set of transport projects including:

- The Northern Arterial itself;
- Metro bus priority measures along Main North Road;
- Links to the city roads; and
- Supporting walking, cycling and travel demand management initiatives.

While the designation has been in place for over 35 years, it does not provide sufficient width for the features expected of modern road construction, such as noise buffers, stormwater treatment and landscaping. The corridor for the arterial therefore requires widening.

How will the Northern Arterial connect to city streets south of QEII Drive?

The CCC is responsible for the design and construction of any links from QEII Drive into the city to ensure traffic flows freely into and out of Christchurch.



LOOKING SOUTH FROM EXISTING NORTHERN MOTORWAY

What’s being proposed?

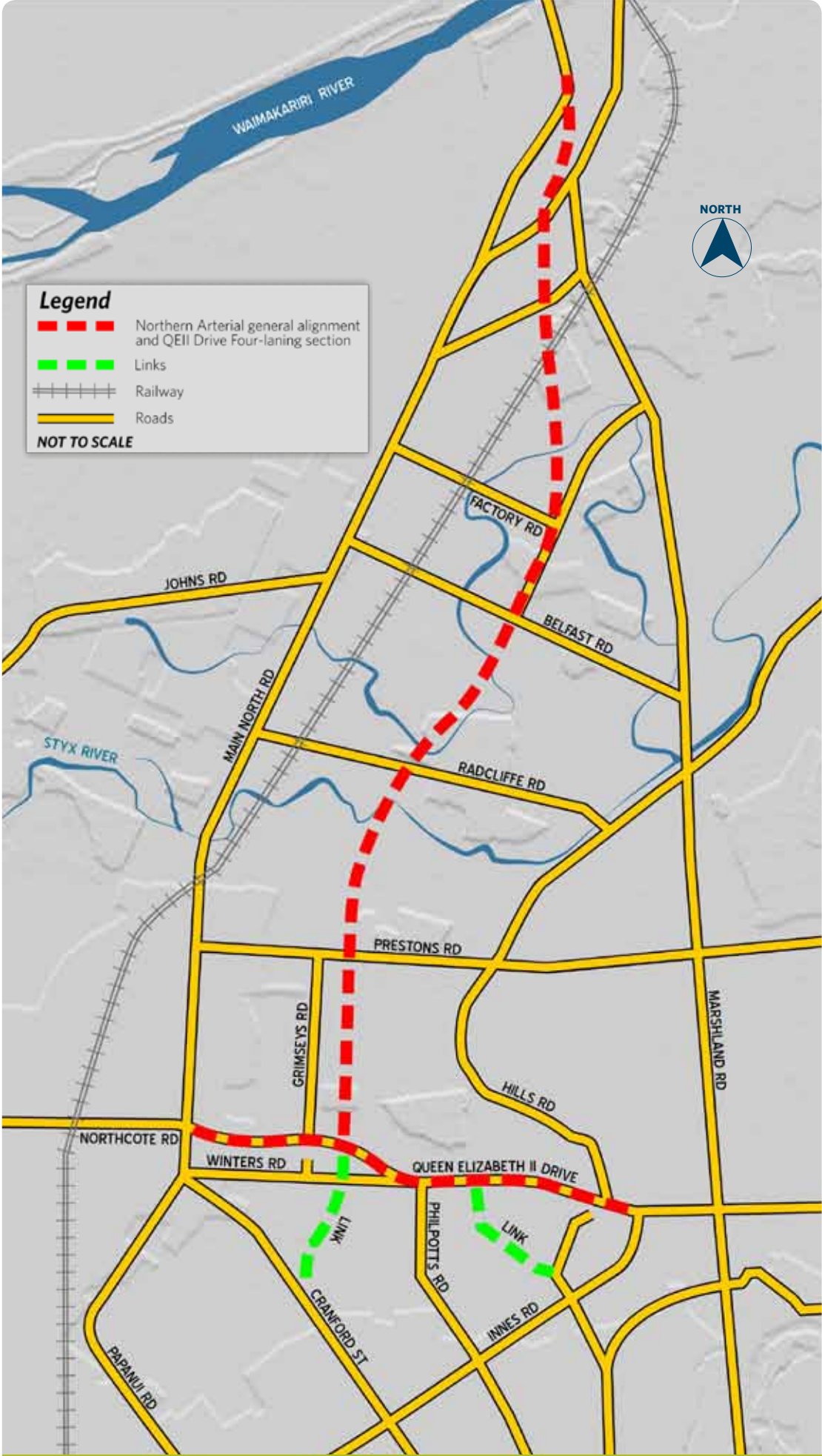
The proposed Northern Arterial extends the existing Christchurch Northern Motorway from just north of Belfast through to connect with QEII Drive. The arterial crosses five major local roads (Main North, Factory, Belfast, Radcliffe and Prestons Roads) and the main trunk railway. It is proposed to keep access from these local roads to the arterial to a minimum with potentially no connections provided.

It is proposed that QEII Drive be widened to four lanes between Main North Road and Innes Road. Most of this widening can be achieved within the existing designation and property boundaries.

By connecting the Northern Motorway with QEII Drive, the Northern Arterial would reduce traffic on Main North Road and Marshland Road thereby reducing congestion and making travelling times more predictable.

This new route is expected to also reduce heavy vehicle traffic on Main North Road, making walking and cycling in the area more attractive and improving the reliability of public transport on Main North Road.

The proposal includes consideration of a parallel cycle/walkway connecting with Owen Mitchell Park in the south, running alongside the arterial and connecting with the old state highway bridge over the Waimakariri River in the north, via local roads.



CHRISTCHURCH NORTHERN ARTERIAL GENERAL ALIGNMENT