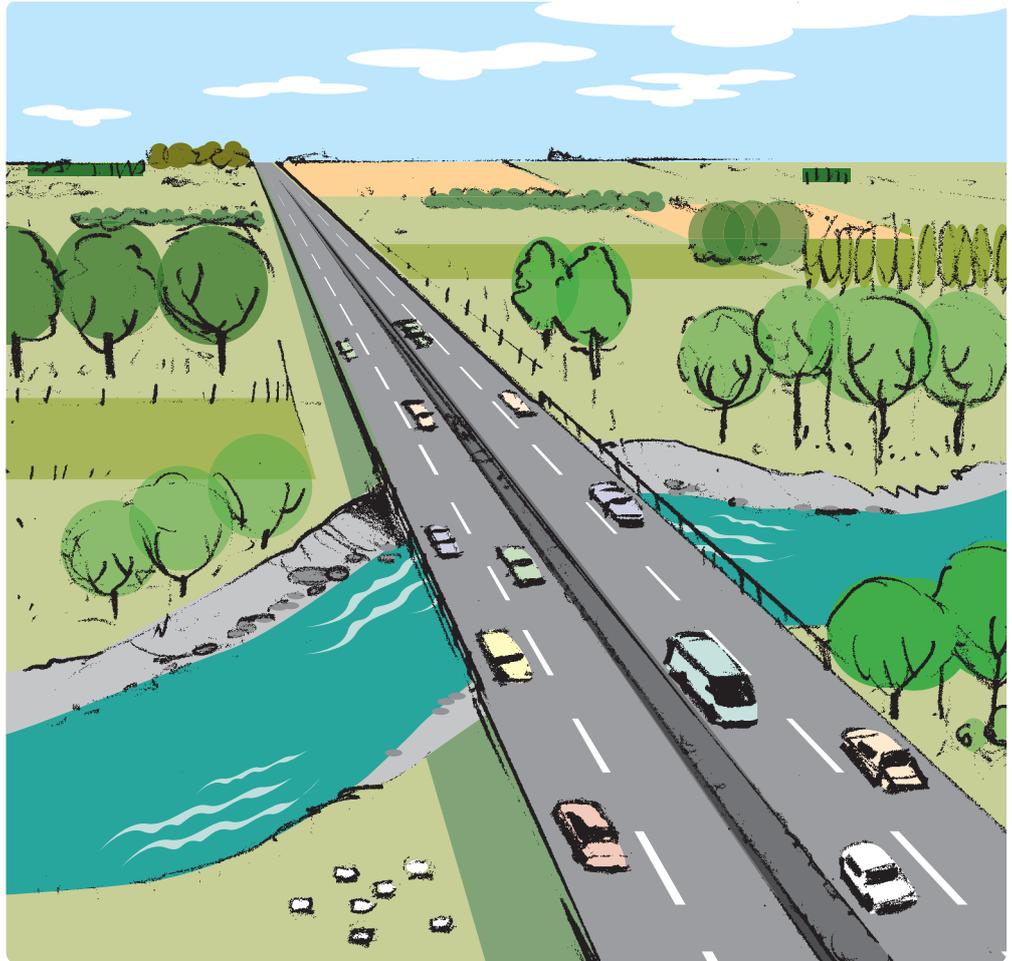




Northern Corridor

What is the Northern Corridor?

The current Christchurch Northern Motorway ends at Belfast where it joins Main North Road. When it was built, in the 1970s, the motorway plan included an arterial from the Northern Motorway to enable traffic headed for the Christchurch CBD and Lyttelton Port to bypass Belfast. The current alignment designation, identifying the route for this Northern Arterial, has been in the City Plan for around 35 years. The designation ends at Queen Elizabeth II Drive (QEII Drive).



Why is the Northern Arterial needed?

State Highway 74 (Main North Road) passing through Belfast provides the main access to the Christchurch CBD and Lyttelton Port via QEII Drive. Large volumes of local and through traffic along Main North Road create significant congestion reducing the safety and efficiency of transport using this vital road.

The Belfast community has long suffered 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 (UDS). The Belfast Area Plan, a strategy for managing urban growth, acknowledges the Northern Arterial as critical for the success of the plan.

What are the benefits of the Northern Arterial?

The new four-lane Northern Arterial and QEII Drive four-laning between Main North Road and Innes Road will improve access to the Port, to industrial hubs on the eastern side of Christchurch, the CBD and enable further development of the Belfast area.

Traffic congestion will be reduced and travelling times improved for through-traffic and local trips.

Moving traffic, particularly freight heading to the Port, off the Main North Road running through Belfast will enable more public transport enhancements, as well as safer cycling and walking facilities along the road. Without a state highway bisecting Belfast, the local community will benefit from improved safety, health and stronger social connections.

What will the Northern Arterial involve?

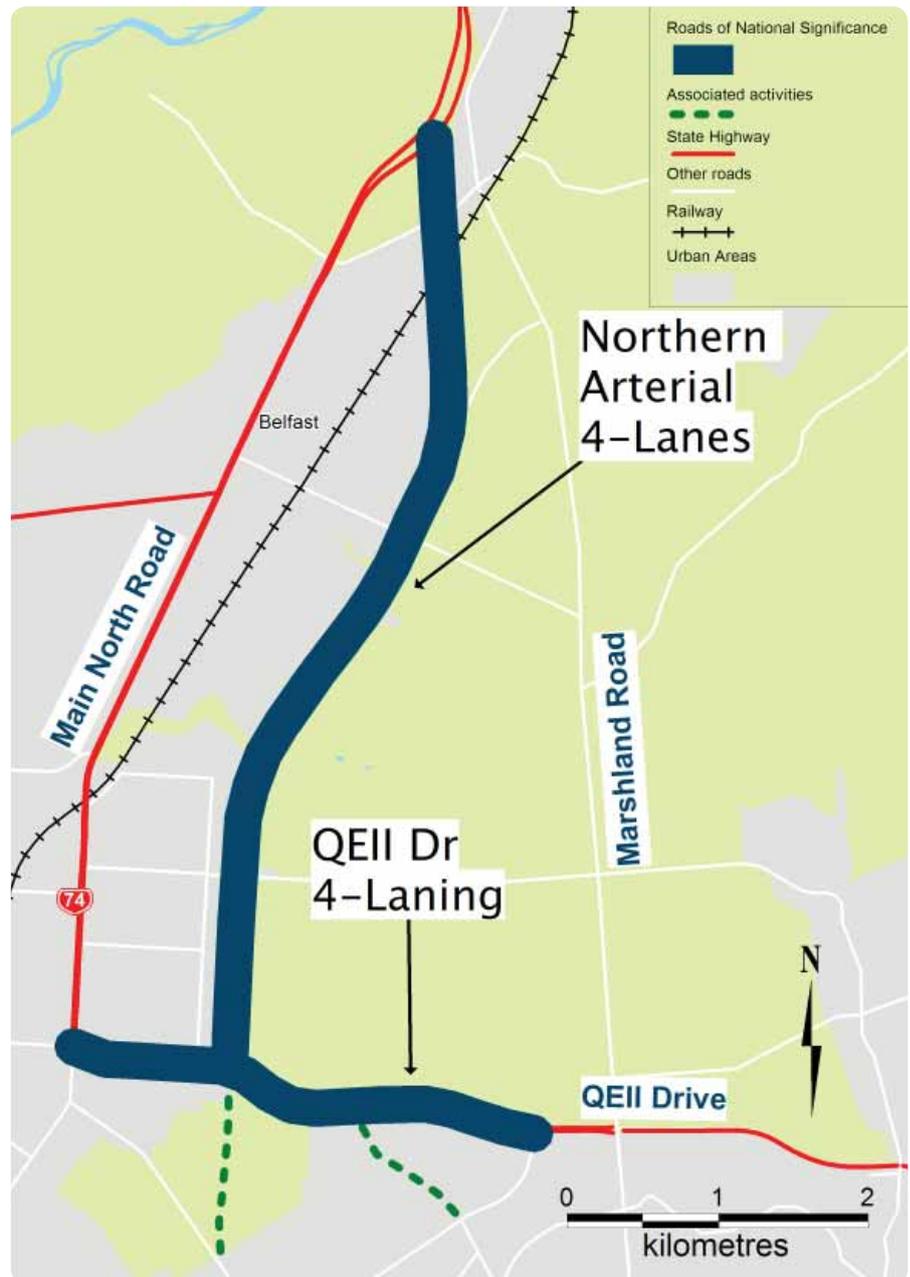
The Northern Arterial is a new four-lane, median separated highway that will connect with the existing Christchurch Northern Motorway, south of the Waimakariri River bridges, and run to the east of Belfast and Redwood connecting with QEII Drive near Winters Road (see map).

QEII Drive currently carries over 20,000 vehicles per day, which is forecast to increase with ongoing development. The construction of the Northern Arterial will divert more traffic onto QEII Drive. Upgrading this road from two lanes to four between Main North Road and Innes Road is essential to avoid congestion and delays for traffic travelling to the Port.

What stage is the project at?

The NZ Transport Agency's designation is still in place, however, it will likely require widening to allow for additional landscaping, and noise and visual buffers where necessary. Once the alignment has been finalised, an application to amend the current alignment designation for the Northern Arterial will be lodged with the Christchurch City Council.

The current focus for 2010 is an option selection process, involving consultation and preliminary design, which will result in a decision on the preferred alignment for designation.



Want to know more?

Information on this Christchurch roads of national significance project is available at the NZ Transport Agency website www.nzta.govt.nz. When projects reach consultation stages, the relevant information will be online for residents and interested parties to make submissions.

The NZ Transport Agency produces Christchurch roads of national significance project update newsletters. If you would like to receive these, fill in the online form at the website and indicate whether you'd like to receive an e-newsletter or be posted a printed newsletter. You can also remove yourself from the mailing list at the website.



Visit the NZ Transport Agency website: at www.nzta.govt.nz or call our contact centre on 0800 699 000.