# MIN-4132 Update on State Highway Projects relevant to New Dunedin Hospital

11 April 2023

To update the Minister on the outcome of additional work Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency completed for State Highway 1 (SH1) in Dunedin, and next steps.

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**Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:**

**Background**

1. Waka Kotahi previously provided advice to you on the outcomes of the Shaping Future Dunedin Transport Programme Business Case (PBC) and the status of future enhancements/configuration changes to SH1 through central Dunedin and alongside the new Dunedin Hospital site (refer to MIN-3993, MIN-3775, MIN-3802 and BRI-2381).

2. The Waka Kotahi Board endorsed the PBC in late 2021, which included enhancements to a one-way SH1. Subsequently, Dunedin City Council resolved to continue discussions with Waka Kotahi on the future configuration of SH1 using the two-way option as the starting point.

3. Waka Kotahi and Dunedin City Council agreed two scopes of work to help establish a final position on this issue:
    - confirm the functionality and refine the cost estimates for the one-way and two-way SH1 options, and
    - investigate the urban design improvements that could be made to both options to improve the attractiveness, safety, and access requirements, particularly in central Dunedin. The workstreams considered the emerging Health Precinct Site Masterplan which includes a series of mid-block crossings in the vicinity of the new Dunedin Hospital and University of Otago's health sciences precinct.

**Findings from additional modelling and urban design reviews**

4. Key conclusions from the urban design review were that there is potential for both the one-way and two-way state highway options to have significant improved amenity and public outcomes. However, the one-way option provides the best overall balance of amenity and pedestrian access improvements across the length of the corridors.

5. Key conclusions from the modelling review were:
    - the one-way option has a marginal reduction in operational performance compared to the existing situation, with lower traffic volumes on SH1 due to the lower speed environment and increased use of the Harbour Arterial.

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- the two-way option has less overall network capacity than the one-way options, which leads to more traffic using the Harbour Arterial and other central city roads due to increased movement complexity, and resultant additional delay, at intersections on the two-way SH1 corridor. This results in a deterioration of travel times in the Central City and poorer level of service at some key intersections.

6. As a result of this work, the high-level cost estimates have been revised to:
   - P95 SH1 One-way enhanced option - $23m
   - P95 SH1 Two-way plus local road $74m.

   Note these are high level estimates based on indicative cross-sections and other road allocation assumptions and, for the SH1 one-way option, was based on improvements between Queens Gardens and Albany Street, with minimal improvements outside of these sections.

**Dunedin City Council's resolution**

7. On 13 March 2023, Waka Kotahi staff briefed the Connecting Dunedin Governance Group and Dunedin City Council councillors on the findings of the review.

8. Dunedin City Council considered a report from Council staff endorsing the enhanced one-way option for SH1 on 27 March 2023. Council voted 10-5 in favour of enhancing the one-way option.

9. This full council report and SH1 review technical documents are available at: https://infocouncil.dunedin.govt.nz/Open/2023/03/CNL_20230327_AGN_2413_AT.htm

**Next steps**

10. Now that Dunedin City Council has resolved to support enhancing the one-way system on SH1 as the preferred option, Waka Kotahi will brief the Local Advisory Group for the New Dunedin Hospital Project and then seek funding approval from the Waka Kotahi Board to begin a Single Stage Business Case for SH1. We are currently targeting a July Board meeting for this decision.

11. In the interim, we will be working with Connecting Dunedin partners and other stakeholders to develop the scope for the business case and seeking the Connecting Dunedin Governance Group's endorsement of that scope before going to the Waka Kotahi Board.

12. We expect the Single Stage Business Case to take 18 months once a contract is awarded.

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