Main South Road Four-laning (SH1)

The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) will soon commence investigations for stage 3 of the Christchurch Southern Corridor upgrade.

Stage 3 will upgrade the existing State Highway 1 (SH1) from two lanes to a four-lane median-separated highway, from Weedsons Road at Rolleston to connect with the Christchurch Southern Motorway Stage 2 (CSM2) near Waterholes Road. This project has been identified by the government as a road of national significance that will improve the southern access to Christchurch, improve safety and support economic growth. The aim of four-laning this section of Main South Road, along with the other Southern Corridor projects (Southern Motorway Stage 1 and Stage 2), is to create an efficient and safe transport network from destinations south of Christchurch to the City Centre and Lyttelton Port.

This Project Update outlines the benefits of the project, maps the corridor and indicates dates for future consultation and development of the Main South Road four-laning project. Refer to the Christchurch Southern Motorway Stage 2 Project Update for more information about stage 2 of the Southern Corridor upgrade.

This is not a consultation document – it is a summary of where the project is to date, so no feedback is required at this stage. Full community consultation will occur, as outlined in the section ‘What happens next?’ (on page 4).

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Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy

The Christchurch Southern Corridor is a key component of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS), a 35-year plan for managing growth in Greater Christchurch. The UDS integrates planning, funding and implementation of land-use, transport and infrastructure. The UDS partners are the NZTA, Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council and Waimakariri 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 happens next?

A detailed investigation and preliminary design phase is currently underway. Options for the alignment will be taken out for public consultation around mid-2010. Subject to finalising the design and obtaining the necessary planning consents, the earliest start date for the motorway would be late in 2013, with completion expected in 2017.

Want to know more?

Information on all the Christchurch roads of national significance projects is available on the NZTA website: www.nzta.govt.nz. When projects reach consultation stages, the relevant information will be online for residents and interested parties to make submissions.
How will stage 3 of the Southern Corridor upgrade benefit the community?

• Improve access. Stage 3 will improve access to Lyttelton Port, the Christchurch City Centre and industrial areas in the south of Christchurch. Access to and from the Izone industrial park in Rolleston will also be improved, enabling the growth of this important economic and employment area.

• Improve safety. Introducing a raised median will improve safety by separating oncoming traffic. Restricting right-hand turns across the traffic flow will also improve safety.

• Improve public transport. With extra lanes on SH1, there will be opportunities to improve public transport travel times and increase service reliability.

• Improve the community connections. The growing populations in Rolleston, Lincoln and West Melton will benefit from improved interconnections.

What will the Main South Road Four-laning project involve?

In addition to four-laning the existing highway, these features are also proposed:

• a median will divide the lanes to improve safety by separating oncoming traffic

• a full grade-separated interchange (flyover, with on-ramps and off-ramps) at Weedons Road intersection will provide an improved and safer connection between West Melton and Lincoln

• a connection to stage 2 of the Christchurch Southern Motorway will provide efficient and safe access to Christchurch City Centre and Lyttelton Port.