



Kawarau Falls Bridge Replacement Project

PROJECT UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2016

Some very visible signs of progress can now be seen, as work gathers momentum on building the new two-lane Kawarau Falls Bridge on State Highway 6 at Frankton.

The NZ Transport Agency is delivering this project on behalf of the government as part of its Accelerated Regional Road Package announced in 2014. To qualify for this funding, projects needed to be fully investigated, designed and addressing current safety, resilience or productivity issues.

Scheduled to open in the second half of 2017, the new bridge is among the largest highway projects seen in the Queenstown area.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ON SITE?



The cleared south bank of the new bridge construction site

Users of the current single lane bridge will have noticed in recent weeks that as shown in the photo above, willow trees have been removed from the southern river bank. This will provide an area to launch the curved portion of the new two-lane bridge out over the river. Site preparation on the northern bank will start once power lines across the river are re-routed underground and via the existing bridge. This work is due for completion before the end of February.

Buoys placed out from the south bank of the river just downstream from the existing bridge are there to alert river users, including commercial operators, that they are in a construction area. However, river users won't be greatly affected by work on the new bridge.

Traffic signals at the northern end of the existing bridge have been moved closer to Southberg Avenue. This will result in a slight increase in traffic light cycle times, but will have minimal impact on the length of traffic queues at the bridge.

From late February, a temporary steel trestle will be built out from the southern bank and over the river, to carry equipment to build the first two bridge piers.

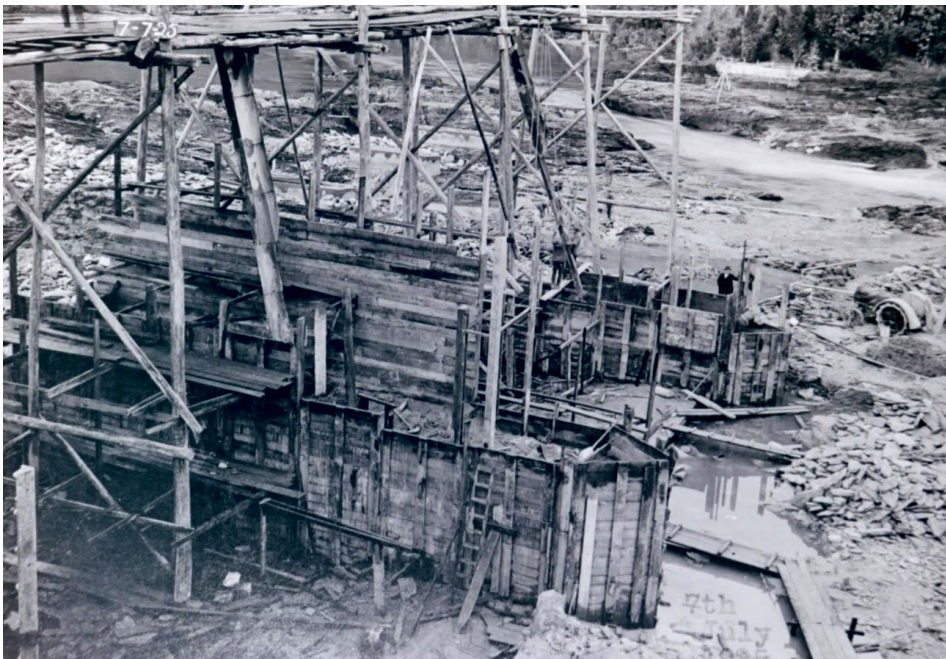
By the middle of this year the detailed design for landscaping and modifying the existing bridge to dedicated cycle and pedestrian access over the river will be completed. This will provide improved and safer connections to cycle trails in the area, helping to grow cycling as an attractive and safe travel choice for both locals and visitors.



Minister of Transport Simon Bridges, Taare Bradshaw on behalf of the manawhenua, Hokonui Runanga and Ngai Tahu and Clutha-Southland MP Todd Barclay, planting a kowhai tree in December 2015 to mark work starting on the new two-lane bridge.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

This photo taken in July 1925, shows site preparation work on the existing single-lane Kawarau Falls Bridge. Fast forward 90 years, and site preparations are now in full swing on a new two-lane replacement bridge just downstream from this site.



SAFETY INFORMATION



Throughout construction, the public (including cyclists and pedestrians) will continue to have access over the existing bridge. Anyone entering an active work zone must check with a site team member, (someone wearing a hard hat and a high visibility vest) to make sure it's safe to enter the area. Often hazards such as open excavations or heavy equipment operating will be present. The construction team has a total commitment to zero harm at the new bridge construction site for both workers and the public.

What will the new bridge deliver?

- » More predictable journey times for bridge users.
- » Eliminate often lengthy traffic delays at the current bridge, especially on peak ski season days.
- » A stronger bridge built to withstand a once in every 2,500-year earthquake.
- » Improved links to Queenstown International Airport, Frankton Flats and Queenstown.
- » The safer and more efficient movement of freight and people south of Queenstown, to key destinations such as Milford Sound and Invercargill.

PROJECT CONTACTS

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