

Ohau Safety Improvements

This 1.5km section of State Highway 1 extends from south of Bishops Road, through Ohau Township to north of Vista Road. The speed limit through this area is 100km/h and this limit extends approximately 300m through the built-up Ohau township. There are five intersections in close proximity to each other.

The issues through Ohau township are very similar to those faced in Manakau. In addition we previously proposed a new road connection between SH1 and SH57. Our revised proposals for this connection are detailed on separate information boards and our proposals for the township are outlined below.

A key consideration we have been working on since May is how to improve safety for state highway users and maintain local network connections to and across SH1 through Ohau township.

We have identified a general package of improvements, concentrating on short-term safety and traffic management benefits, while maintaining our long-term plan of creating a four-lane highway.

The key issues to be addressed by our improvement work are:

- High speeds through the township that create safety issues and conflict with Ohau's township identity
- A short northbound passing lane leading into the township
- Limited pedestrian and cycling facilities
- Multiple side roads interacting with the highway and a high number of vehicles crossing SH1
- Heavy vehicle traffic through the township conflicting with people travelling locally in Ohau
- The clash created by traffic going to and from houses and retail/commercial activities located on or close to the state highway
- The road's geometry creating safety issues (i.e. a narrow width, tight curves and limited sight distances)
- Hazards at the roadside or road's edge that are a safety issue if someone were to crash into them.

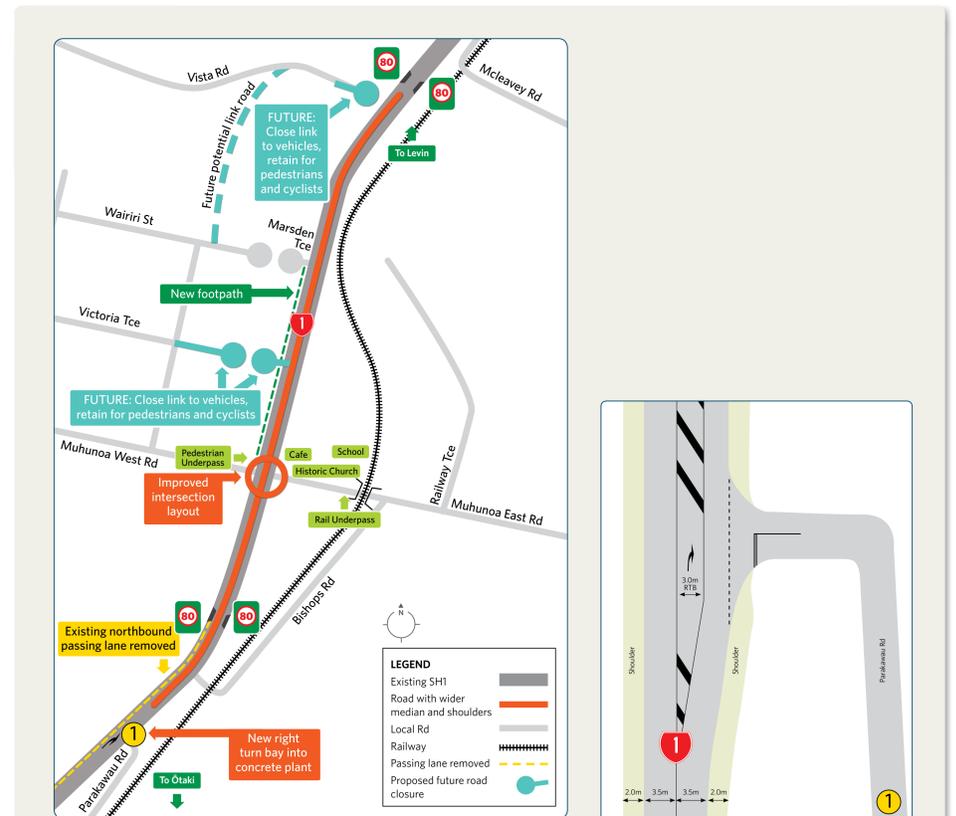
What we are proposing

We originally proposed to make this section of state highway safer by implementing a number of changes. Most of these remain.

We are still proposing:

- Reducing the speed limit to 80km/h through Ohau
- Creating entry "gateways" at either end of Ohau to make it clear to drivers that they are entering a different speed environment
- Widening the highway and creating a painted median strip with a wider road edge, which will provide more space for cyclists
- Removing the northbound passing lane, which ends south of Ohau and provide a right-hand turning bay into Parakawau Road and the concrete processing plant
- Improving the layout of the state highway intersection at Muhunua East/West Roads
- Providing a footpath on the western side of the state highway between Marsden Terrace and Muhunua West Road, connecting with the existing pedestrian underpass.

Our proposals are mostly within the existing highway, but we may need to use private land temporarily to construct the improvements. We will liaise with landowners over this issue when we are closer to starting construction.



What has changed?

As a result of the work we have done since May we have reconsidered other proposals we told you about. Rather than discarding them completely, we are putting these proposals on hold and they do not form part of our immediate plans.

These include:

- Improving or relocating the Bishops Road intersection. This is being considered as part of our proposals for the SH1/SH57 connection, therefore any changes here would happen in future
- Improving two road curves – one south of the township and the other between Marsden Terrace and Vista Road. These curves do not need to be improved given our plans to reduce the speed limit.
- Closing Vista Road and Victoria Street intersections and creating a new link road within the township. We will consider these proposals again in future.

Is there anything else we should know before we make a decision to progress this work in Ohau?

