

# 1 Edendale realignment



Construction of the State Highway 1 realignment around Edendale has been underway for just over five months with plenty of signs of progress.

The project has made good progress since a work start event was held in July involving Southland District Mayor Gary Tong and NZ Transport Agency Regional Relationships South Island Director Jim Harland, shown in the photo above.

When the realignment opens in mid-2020, it will be a key contributor to creating a land transport system for Southland that's safer and easier for people to use. Another important function will be ensuring reliable and resilient access for tourism, farming and forestry, all of which under-pin the region's economic growth and prosperity.

This project also provides greater safety for the local community as a result of shifting highway traffic away from town including the Edendale primary school. The new 2.6km highway alignment features a four-legged roundabout at the southern end connecting to the township and the Fonterra plant, plus a dedicated passing lane for northbound traffic. The alignment will carry more than 4500 vehicles a day.



## PROJECT BENEFITS

- Improved safety for highway users and the local community.
- Shifts highway traffic away from residential properties and the Edendale primary school.
- Creates more safe passing opportunities for SH1 traffic travelling between Invercargill and Gore.
- A consistent speed across a safe new highway alignment.
- Creates a modern section of highway free of tight curves, intersections and rail crossings. All of which are on the current section of SH1 through Edendale.
- Improved access and safety on Southland's main road freight route.
- Provides better access for road users by creating a more direct highway connection between Gore and Invercargill, plus destinations beyond the Southland region.



With earthworks now moving at pace, the highway is starting to take shape and looking like a road. It can be clearly seen by passers-by.

So far, a large amount of pipe work and fitting control lines servicing the nearby Fonterra plant has been completed, together with installing eight spare ducts that will futureproof the plant. This work had to be completed before the end of July, a mammoth task, but the project contractor Fulton Hogan met this demanding deadline.

Most of the new alignment has been formed and a stock underpass built for the Fonterra farming operation.

The realignment is one of the biggest road construction projects in Southland in decades and has provided Fulton Hogan with an opportunity to extensively use 3D-controlled machinery in this region for the first time. This equipment carries advanced technology to carry out earth works with greater efficiency and accuracy than conventional machinery.

Once this project is completed in about one and a half years, it will not only make a huge difference to the safety and amenity of those living in Edendale but also to the wider Southland region and beyond.

By creating a better State Highway 1 connection from Gore to Invercargill and between the Otago and Southland regions, the new realignment improves access to the wider Southland's road network.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Work in progress includes further pavement construction, line markings, lighting, safety barriers and the formation of a large drainage pond. As part of this project a new entrance into Edendale will be created and new access roads provided into the Fonterra plants. The growth of the dairy industry and expansions at the Fonterra site have led to an increase in tanker movements on this busy road. The Transport Agency and Fonterra are committed to working to reduce the impact of these movements. The proposed roundabout provides a much safer alternative for these tankers entering and exiting the highway traffic.

Weather permitting, the first section (northern end) of the new alignment will be sealed before Christmas, which the construction team is on track to achieve.

## KEY FEATURES

- A new highway alignment bypassing Edendale and the Fonterra site.
- A four-legged roundabout with a design that caters for the 100km/h speed environment on the two highway approach links.
- The highway will take a right-angle route at the roundabout. The two other legs on the roundabout connect to Edendale via Salford Street and the Fonterra site.
- A dedicated passing lane for northbound traffic.
- A stock and light farm vehicles underpass to reduce highway crossings associated with the day-to-day operations of nearby farms.



Photo of new alignment, looking north from the roundabout. Photo courtesy of Fulton Hogan



FOR MORE INFORMATION about this project go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/sh1-edendale-realignment](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/sh1-edendale-realignment)

PROJECT CONTACT Jason Forbes [jason.forbes@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:jason.forbes@nzta.govt.nz)