2 Hebden Crescent intersection safety improvements

What we're doing and why

We're making changes at two Hebden Crescent/ State Highway 2 (SH2) intersections, to improve safety. These permanent changes could impact your journeys, so please read this information carefully to ensure you're in the loop about what's changing, and what it might mean for you.

Background

These intersection changes are part of a larger work programme focused on improving safety on SH2 in the Hutt Valley, while minimising changes that might slow travel along SH2. SH2 is an important, busy road that carries large volumes of people and products every day, connecting Wellington, Hutt Valley, Wairarapa and beyond. Around 37,000 vehicles travel along this section of SH2 every day.

Most of SH2 in the Hutt Valley has good safety characteristics, with median and side barriers that prevent the most serious crash types. However, there are several intersections with serious crash records.

In 2021 we carried out engagement and feasibility design work for physical safety improvements on 14 intersections along SH2 from Ngāūranga to Upper Hutt. This was about gathering information and determining the best proposed safety improvements.

From here, we decided to take a staged approach to these safety upgrades and prioritise four intersections: Moonshine Hill Road, Owen Street and the two Hebden Crescent intersections. These were prioritised due to the high-risk for death and serious injury. They have unsafe layouts unsuitable for high-speed and high-volume traffic, including the potential for serious side-impact crashes.

Further engagement was carried out in 2022 to inform residents, businesses, and stakeholders about this decision.

After some delays, including to make some necessary design changes, we're now ready to start construction for the two SH2/Hebden Crescent intersections.

The changes we're making

Both intersections have longstanding safety issues, including vehicles turning right at the SH2/Hebden Crescent by Liverton Road intersection having to turn across two lanes of busy, fast-moving traffic. From 2014-2023*, there have been 29 crashes at the two intersections, with one person losing their life.

We considered a range of options during the investigation and design phases – the current option and a variety of alternatives, which were ruled out as not viable for a range of reasons.

Closing the right-hand turn addresses the safety risk, while minimising travel disruption for the 37,000 vehicles that move through this section of SH2 every day.

The safety improvements will, however, impact journeys for residents and businesses in the Hebden Crescent, Liverton Road and Gurney Road area. Some journeys will be longer, particularly for people wanting to travel south along SH2.
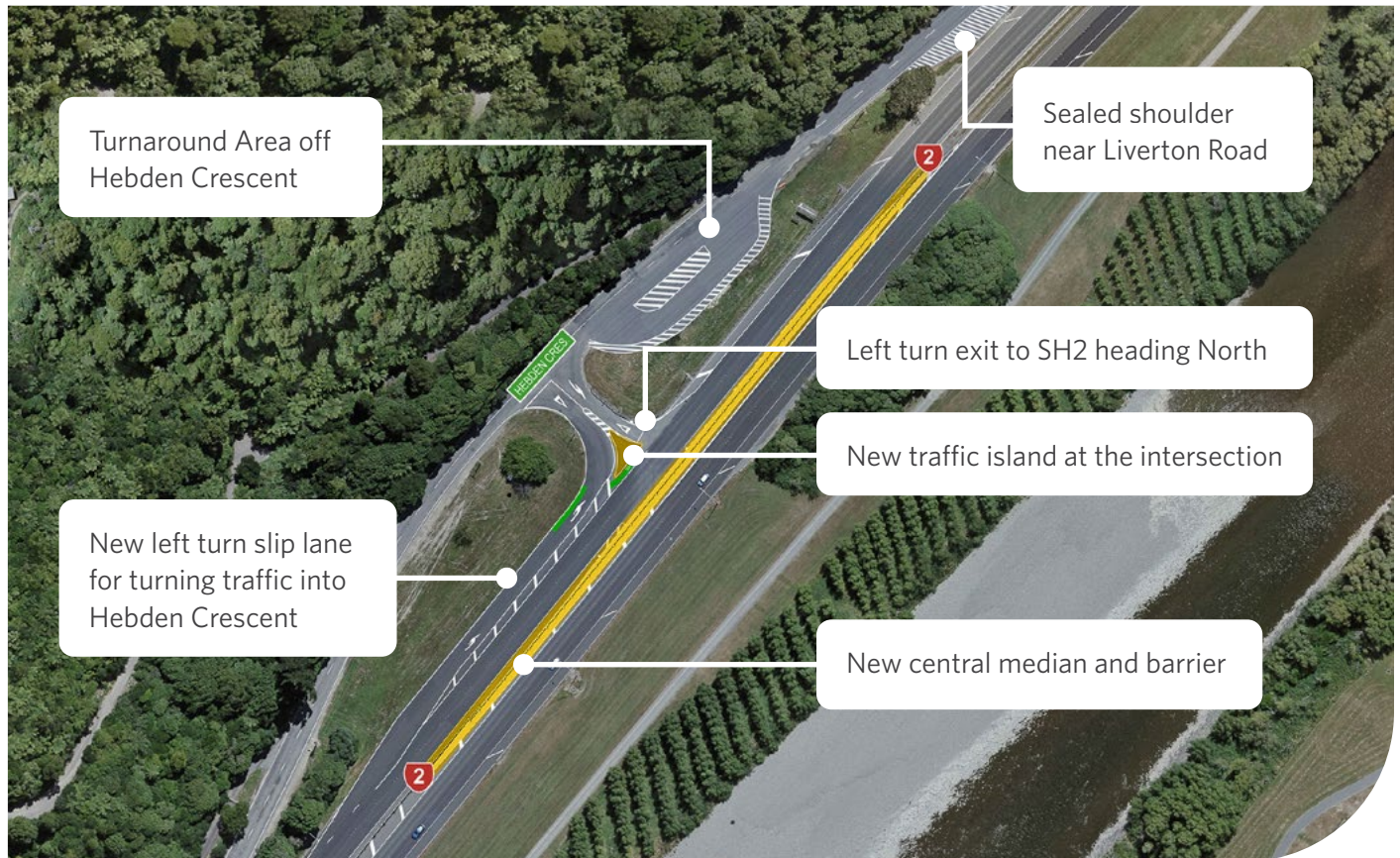
*Data is provided from the road traffic crash database; Crash Analysis System (CAS). 2023 data is not yet complete in CAS. These are the current figures from CAS as at 4/03/2024

NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY WAKA KOTAHI

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa New Zealand Government

Hebden Crescent intersection safety improvements

Hebden Crescent by Liverton Road intersection changes

The Hebden Crescent intersection by Liverton Road will be converted to allow only left-hand turns in and out. The ability to turn right will be removed and the median barrier extended to make it continuous.

Turnaround Area off Hebden Crescent

Sealed shoulder near Liverton Road

Left turn exit to SH2 heading North

New traffic island at the intersection

New left turn slip lane for turning traffic into Hebden Crescent

New central median and barrier

Accessing and exiting Hebden Crescent in the Hutt Valley

The safety improvements at the two SH2/Hebden Crescent intersections mean there will be new ways to access and exit Hebden Crescent.

➡ Accessing Hebden Crescent from SH2

If you're travelling from the north, you'll access Hebden Crescent by using the Belmont Regional Park entrance onto Hebden Crescent at the SH2/SH58 interchange. This route is suitable for heavy vehicles.

Coming from the south, you'll still be able to turn left onto Hebden Crescent at the Hebden Crescent by Liverton Road intersection.

Exiting Hebden Crescent onto SH2

If you're heading north, you'll have two options for accessing SH2:

➡ turn left at the Hebden Crescent by Liverton Road intersection

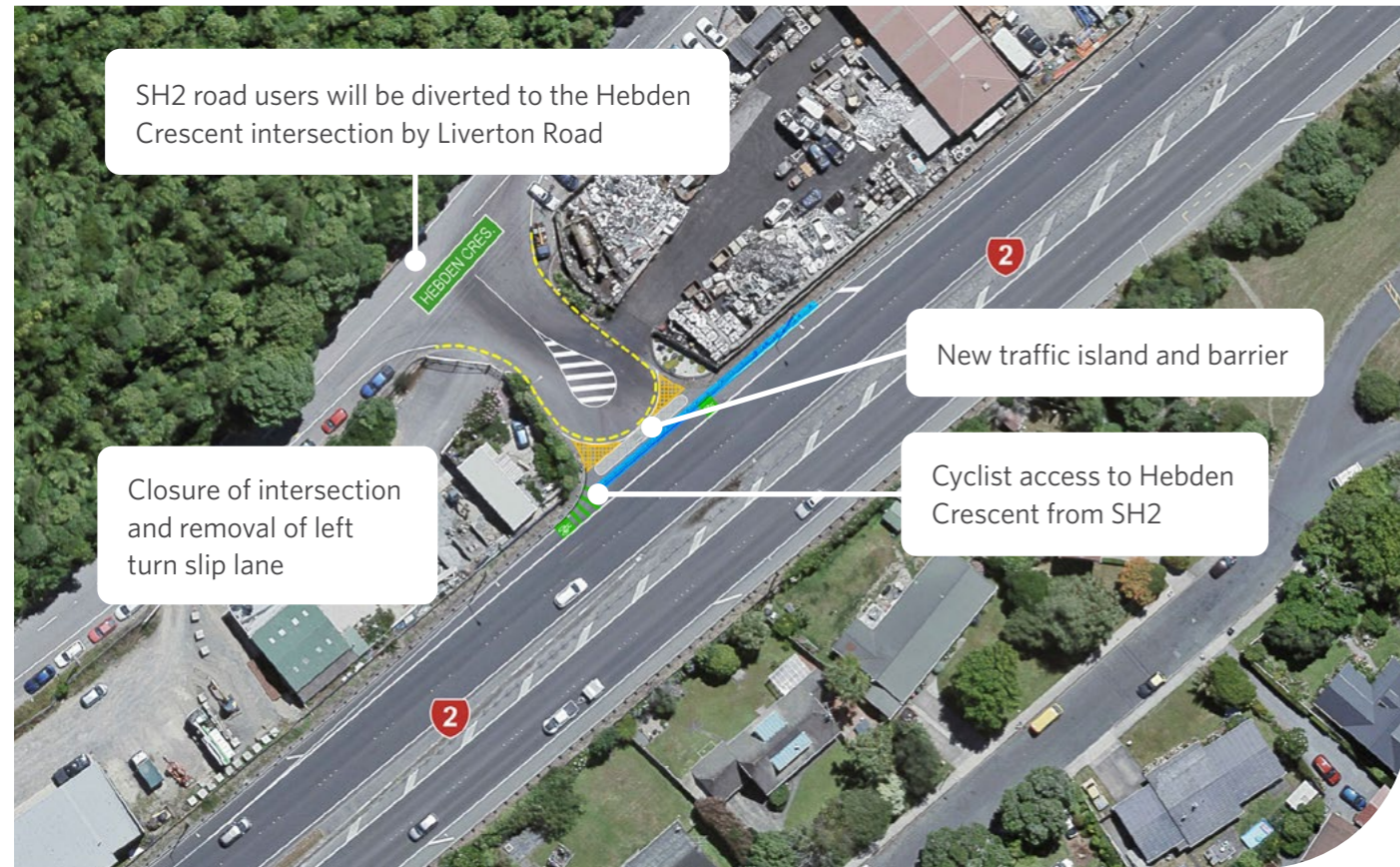➡ travel north along Hebden Crescent and use the SH2/SH58 interchange.

If you want to head south on SH2, you'll no longer be able to turn right out of Hebden Crescent. You'll need to either:

➡ turn left onto SH2 at the Hebden Crescent by Liverton Road intersection and head north approximately 3 kms to use the SH2/SH58 interchange to turn around

➡ travel north along Hebden Crescent and exit directly onto the SH2/SH58 Interchange.

Hebden Crescent near Owen Street intersection changes

The intersection at Hebden Crescent near Owen Street will be closed and road users will be diverted to use Hebden Crescent by Liverton Road or Haywards (SH2/SH58) Interchange for access.

SH2 road users will be diverted to the Hebden Crescent intersection by Liverton Road

New traffic island and barrier

Closure of intersection and removal of left turn slip lane

Cyclist access to Hebden Crescent from SH2

The safety improvements

Why has there been no consultation for this project?

Our approach is to consult where the community has an opportunity to influence the decision. Some project decisions are made through safety investigations and assessments, and consultation isn't always possible. In these cases, our commitment is to engage to inform the community. While we acknowledge the impact on people who live and work in the area, the collective safety of all SH2 users is the primary focus.

We've listened to feedback and suggestions for some changes to the design, like including better turning space for the right-hand turn from Hebden Crescent into Liverton Road and have incorporated these into the final design.

Surely there must be a better alternative than doesn't cause disruption to our journeys?

We considered several potential options at the investigation and design stages. The confirmed approach was identified as the only viable option to address the safety issues at these intersections, without adversely disrupting travel along this section of SH2.

Other intersections on SH2 have, or appear to be getting traffic lights, why can't we?
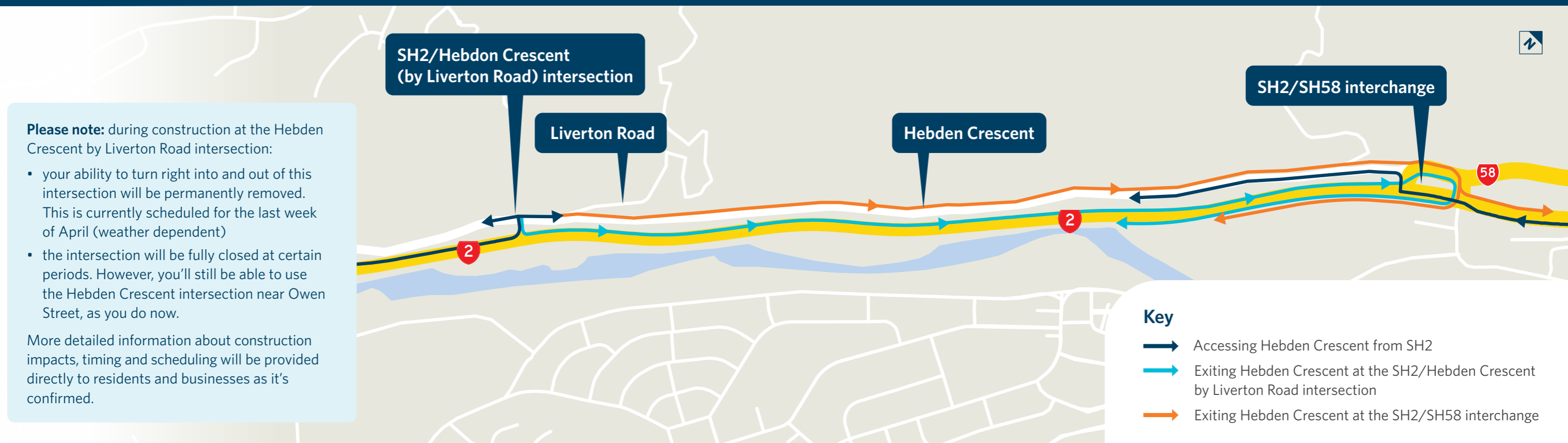
We carefully considered traffic lights during investigations, but these were ruled out as a viable option for this intersection. They would require a reduced speed limit over this section of SH2, interrupting traffic flow and potentially causing further safety risks for this section of highway.

Will this result in more traffic on Hebden Crescent?

Yes, the safety improvements will lead to more traffic on Hebden Crescent. We've been working with Hutt City Council to ensure that the road is well placed to manage any increase in traffic.

Will residents and businesses get compensation?

NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi doesn't have funding to provide compensation when journeys change on state highways. Journeys can change for a variety of reasons, including when we make changes to improve the safety of our roads, by changing dangerous intersections or adding median barriers. We acknowledge this requires more travel time and distance for people, and this is considered when making these decisions, but no compensation payments can be made.

Please note: during construction at the Hebden Crescent by Liverton Road intersection:

- your ability to turn right into and out of this intersection will be permanently removed. This is currently scheduled for the last week of April (weather dependent)

- the intersection will be fully closed at certain periods. However, you'll still be able to use the Hebden Crescent intersection near Owen Street, as you do now.

More detailed information about construction impacts, timing and scheduling will be provided directly to residents and businesses as it's confirmed.

SH2/Hebdon Crescent (by Liverton Road) intersection

Liverton Road

Hebden Crescent

SH2/SH58 interchange

Key

→ Accessing Hebden Crescent from SH2

→ Exiting Hebden Crescent at the SH2/Hebden Crescent by Liverton Road intersection

→ Exiting Hebden Crescent at the SH2/SH58 interchange

Questions and answers

What's being done to avoid traffic using the narrow and winding Gurney Road?

We're aware that the changes might lead some people to consider using Gurney Road for some of their journeys.

We'll be installing signage that:

- encourages people to use the recommended new routes
- advises that Gurney Road is not suitable for larger vehicles.

The turning bay area near Liverton Road will also be upgraded, making it easier for larger vehicles to turn around and head north along Hebden Crescent.

Will this change my travel times?

Some journeys will be longer as a result of the safety improvements, particularly if you're wanting to head south along SH2 towards Wellington. The new route which involves heading north and turning around at the SH2/SH58 interchange is expected to add around 5-10 minutes to the journey, in free-flowing traffic.

Will this impact emergency services accessing my property?

We've worked with New Zealand Police, Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) and Wellington Free Ambulance to ensure they are aware of the safety improvements and can continue to provide safe and efficient emergency services to the area.

How will I let others know about the new route to access my property or business?

We've prepared a map that shows the alternate access routes. You can share this with suppliers, contractors, and others. This is available on our project web page **nzta.govt.nz/sh2-hutt-valley-intersections**.

Questions and answers

Construction

When will I get detailed information about construction scheduling, timings, traffic management etc?

We're working on traffic management and detailed scheduling plans with Wellington Transport Alliance and will share this information with you as soon as it's available.

Why is the intersection by Liverton Road being worked on first?

We're starting here to allow local traffic continued left turn access onto SH2, when we start work on the Hebden Crescent intersection near Owen Street, around 9 weeks later.

How noisy/dusty will this work be?

It's hard to predict, but once we start work we'll do everything we can to minimise noise and disruption and notify businesses and residents of potential impacts.

Will it cause any disruption to SH2?

Construction work directly affecting SH2 will be carried out overnight to avoid major disruption to traffic. Temporary traffic management will be in place on SH2 at times which will likely involve temporary lane closures and a reduced speed limit to ensure everyone's safety. Details will be confirmed by Wellington Transport Alliance as soon as it's available.

Who's doing the construction work and who do I contact if I have a question or complaint about the work once it gets underway?

Wellington Transport Alliance are doing the construction work. You can contact them by emailing **customer@wta.nzta.govt.nz**

More information

For more information about the safety improvements, please visit the project web page below or use the following QR code:
nzta.govt.nz/sh2-hutt-valley-intersections

or contact us at **nzta.govt.nz/sh2-hutt-valley-intersections**

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