



Dunedin to Port Chalmers safety improvements

Project update



Reclamation of Sawyers Bay and Mussel Bay, showing new ballast bed awaiting rail realignment.

Greater safety is well on the way for SH88 with the completion of a modern and safe off-highway shared path for pedestrians and cyclists by the end of this year, and on-highway intersection upgrades and improved road markings.

Rail line reclamation and realignment work to accommodate the new St Leonards to Port Chalmers shared path largely finished, with work on building this stunning 5km shared path ramping up over the coming weeks.

At both Sawyers Bay and Mussel Bay, the harbour has been reclaimed to accommodate new sleepers and railway to be installed by July on a new alignment. This has already happened around Mussel Bay near Port Chalmers. Groundwork preparations are in place at Sawyers Bay to enable the rail shift. This will happen in KiwiRail's next quiet period for train movements on this section of line.



A before and after rail realignment photo of the SH88 St Leonard's Straights. Work is currently happening to remove bridges within this section of rail corridor.

At St Leonards, between the boat club and Curles Point, only a small amount of rail line reclamation and realignment remains, with work now concentrated on removing the rail bridge.

Given the length and complexity of this project, work is progressing in multiple locations.

Burkes

The harbour has been reclaimed to create space for future safety improvements and a new path, pictured to the right, that makes accessing the existing shared path safer and easier to access. Up until now, people had to walk along the side of the highway then down a steep track.

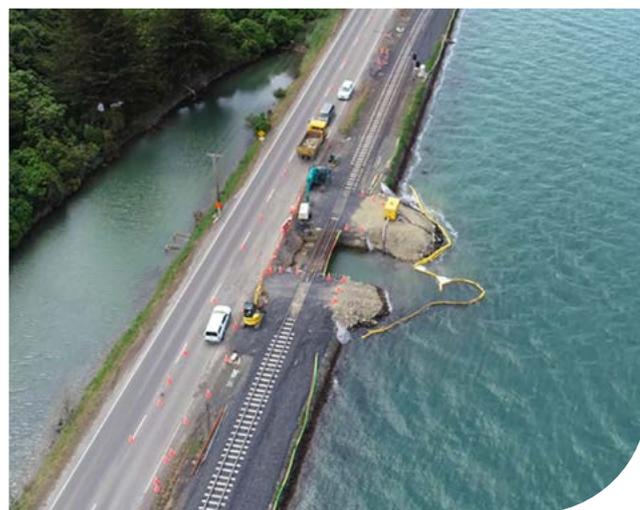
Further access improvements to the existing shared path and nearby Burkes community are also underway. The Dunedin bound highway lane will shift onto the new road widening, creating space for a traffic island allowing people to safely cross the highway one lane at a time. A new right turning lane will provide safer road access to Burkes.



St Leonards

Most of the rail track has been realigned and as shown to the left work is underway on driving the timber piles for a retaining wall to support the new section of shared path through this area.

During the next quiet train traffic period, an existing rail bridge (shown below) will be removed and the remaining track realigned.



Blanket Bay

The first 600m section of Blanket Bay the shared path will travel over Otago Harbour on a boardwalk.

Pictured to the right is an amphibious excavator that's driving the boardwalk's timber piles.

The second half of the shared path is being built on a reclamation (shown below).



Before and after photos of reclamation work at Blanket Bay



Roseneath

As seen in this photo, path lighting is now installed on the southside of the SH88 Roseneath Cutting with the path ready for sealing. The area will be landscaped with native plants.

A unique two-and a-half metre high retaining wall through the Roseneath cutting is hard to miss. The path will travel on top of the wall carrying it above the highway, with users protected by secure fencing. Made of large concrete panels, the retaining wall provided a perfect blank canvas to showcase Dunedin's creative talent. Waka Kotahi engaged local artist Simon Kaan to develop the retaining wall panels depicting the story of Matamata, a guardian taniwha from this area.

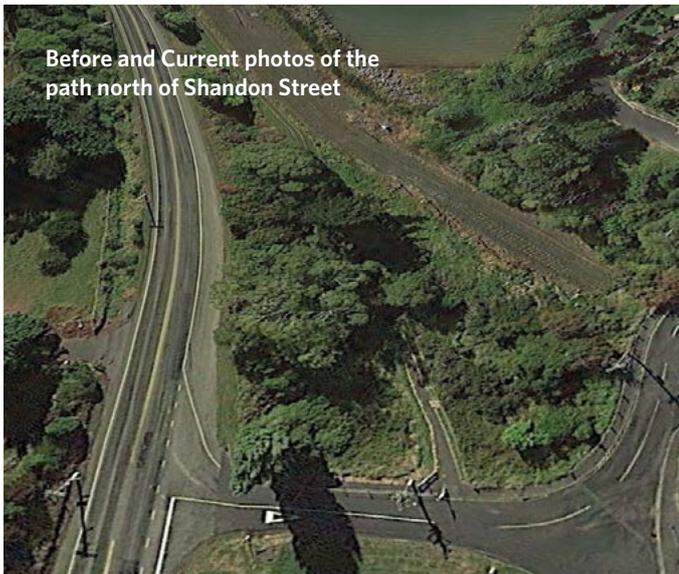


Shandon Street, Roseneath

Previously there was a narrow steep path through this area that's now been transformed by this project. Like the rest of the new shared path, it'll be a well-lit with an asphalted three-metre-wide pathway for people to enjoy.



Roseneath cutting retaining wall



Before and Current photos of the path north of Shandon Street



Port Chalmers

Rail corridor realignment material has been reused as fill to support the new shared path. This is great for the project and the environment as no extra truck movements were needed to cart this material off-site to a landfill.



Did you know

- Approximately 250 boardwalk piles will be installed to support the shared path across Blanket Bay.
- Over 3,000 plants are to be planted.
- 150 precast retaining wall concrete panels were installed at the SH88 Roseneath.