



Waitaki Bridges Replacement Project

NEWS UPDATE

December 2013



Beam placement at the No 2 bridge on the Kurow side of the river.

Construction of the Waitaki Bridges on State Highway 82 is well on track, with the No. 2 Bridge on the Kurow side of the river expected to open in March 2014.

The new twin double-lane bridges will replace the two existing 132-year-old, single-lane timber structures that are at the end of their economic life. The \$20.1 million replacement bridges being built immediately downstream from the current bridges, are part of the Transport Agency's \$1 billion programme of investment in Canterbury's transport network from 2012 to 2015.

Three elements of the work have been underway in recent months. Piling for the No. 2 Bridge (the shorter of the two bridges) was finished in September; the installation of the bridge crossheads, abutments and structural steel bridge sub-frame is now also complete; and work got underway in November on driving the seven piles that will support the longer No. 1 Bridge on the Hakataramea side of the river. Piling is going to plan and should be completed during the first quarter of 2014.

A 250m long temporary work platform capable of carrying large cranes and other heavy equipment is now in place alongside the No. 1 Bridge. This will play a key role in the construction of the new bridge as well as in the demolition of the old one. The last sections of the existing No. 1 Bridge are scheduled for removal from the riverbed in October or November 2014 - about three months after the bridge's new replacement opens.

THE NEW BRIDGES WILL:

- protect a critical transport link between Kurow and Hakataramea Valley dating back to when the current bridges opened in 1881
- secure a key regional tourism and freight route along State Highway 82 linking Kurow and Waimate
- have the ability to carry larger and heavier freight vehicles
- provide the Hakataramea area community with a dependable road link to essential services and employment in Kurow.

The weathering steel (which gives a rusty look) on the new bridges' girders for the decks has been a talking point. The girders are made of high-strength, low-alloy steel and their rusting process starts in the same way as conventional steel. This is first time this type of steel has been used to build a highway bridge in the South Island.

The steel has specific alloying elements which create a stable rust layer which sticks to the base metal during the weathering process. Over time – two to five years – the orange-brown appearance evolves into a dark-brown.

This rust patina is developed by applying water then drying the steel several times to create a protective barrier that prevents further oxygen or moisture reacting with it. While not suitable for all locations, the steel is ideally suited to this form of construction. It will also provide environmental, economic, health and safety benefits over the life of the new bridges. For example, one of the immediate benefits will be a reduction in the ongoing maintenance costs of the two bridges – as they won't need painting.

Partnering charter

A charter was recently signed by interested parties to capture their shared aims and objectives for the project in one place. It covers safety, the environment, recycling material from the old bridge, display aspects and working with the community. The goal of the charter is for the new bridges to provide a strategic link between the Otago and Canterbury regions – while also allowing local communities to create a legacy that respects the past and inspires the future. A copy of the charter is available on the project website.

Construction timetable: December 2013–April 2014

BRIDGE 1 (HAKATARAMEA)

- Delivery of the steel for this bridge will be carried out between December 2013 and February 2014.
- Erection of the bridge steel work commences.
- Piling and pier construction work underway and due for completion March/April 2014.

BRIDGE 2 (KUROW)

- Structural steel work completed.
- Precast concrete bridge deck and reinforcement work starts mid December.
- Work continues on forming the road approaches from both the Kurow and Island ends of the bridge.
- Contractor relocates their work compound from the Kurow to Hakateramea side of the river.
- Bridge opening is anticipated in March 2014.
- River protection work.
- Work starts on removing the existing bridges.



The completed Kurow No 2 bridge looking from Kurow toward the river Island.



Duct installation preparation on the approaches to the new No 2 bridge near Kurow.



Road formation work on the new No 1 Bridge on the Hakateramea side of the river.



If you require any additional information, please contact:

Denis Faamau, Project Manager
McConnell Dowell Constructors Ltd
03 436 0687
Email Denis.Faamau@macdow.co.nz

Steve Proud, Project Manager
NZ Transport Agency
03 964 2892
Email steve.proud@nzta.govt.nz

More information about this project can be found at: www.nzta.govt.nz/waitaki-bridges-replacement-project