

MINO-759 Queenstown transport update

23 May 2023

The Prime Minister is visiting Queenstown and will be speaking at a Chamber of Commerce event. The following provides an update on transport projects planned and underway in Queenstown. Also attached are monthly patronage figures for Queenstown buses from January 2018 to March 2023.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is a member of Kā Huanui a Tāhuna (Queenstown Alliance), which is designing and delivering the town centre upgrades and Stage 1 of the Arterials project (on behalf of QLDC), and New Zealand Upgrade Programme (NZUP) Queenstown (on behalf of Waka Kotahi). Like other parts of New Zealand that have high tourism numbers, but a relatively small rating base, QLDC has affordability challenges when paying for new infrastructure and services.

- **NZUP Queenstown**

The NZUP Queenstown Package is part of a comprehensive suite of transport measures that focuses on mode shift, improved access and safety improvements. In May 2021, following baselining of the NZUP programme, funding of \$115 million (P50) was allocated to the Queenstown Package. s 9(2)(g)(i)

- **Ladies Mile Masterplan**

The Minister for the Environment has issued QLDC with a direction to use the Streamlined Planning Process for a Plan Variation to rezone approximately 120 hectares of Te Putahi Ladies Mile. The Ladies Mile Masterplan provides for a mixed-use development comprising approximately 2400 residential units with a range of residential densities, schools, a commercial precinct, sports and recreation facilities and green spaces. The Queenstown Spatial Plan (refer Appendix 2) is an initiative of the Grow Well Whaiora (Urban Growth) Partnership and takes a 30-50-year view of Queenstown and includes options to accommodate residential and visitor growth. The eastern corridor (including Ladies Mile) was identified in the Spatial Plan as a priority development area that might be suitable for a new transit-oriented neighbourhood offering new housing choices. The Ladies Mile Masterplan attempts to reduce demand to travel and seek greater mode shift. However, the transport network is currently operating at or close to 100% of capacity in the vicinity of the subject site at peak times. Even with greater mode shift, PT will not cater for all trips so there will always be a resultant increase in vehicle demand on an already constrained transport system. The Howards Drive Roundabout, which is part of NZUP, helps provide access to the Ladies Mile area.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

- **Queenstown Public Transport Business Case**

The Queenstown Public Transport Business Case (QPTBC) stems from the Queenstown Transport Business Case (endorsed in February 2021), which was also the genesis of NZUP Queenstown package. In combination, the bus priority infrastructure provided through NZUP, and the public transport services improvements proposed through the QPTBC, will help contribute to achieving Queenstown's high non-car mode share targets. The QPTBC is considering opportunities for Park and Ride, ferries and On Demand PT, as well as the implications of decarbonisation commitments and changes to funding and operating models.

- **Transport Choices**

There are two projects in Queenstown's Transport Choices package – Wanaka Schools to Pool s 9(2)(g)(i) and Arthurs Point to Queenstown Active Travel s 9(2)(g)(i). Both provide formalised walking and cycling routes, enhancing safety between key trip generators and destinations (primarily schools, recreation and residential areas). Plans and designs were almost complete at the time the fund was announced so both projects are close to commencing, pending signing of the full funding agreement.

- **Wakatipu Active Travel Network (WATN)**

This cycling and pedestrian network is made up of several routes throughout the Wakatipu Basin. Waka Kotahi is delivering three key routes labelled as A2, A3 and A7 in the 1st stage. Status updates for the three routes are as follows.

- **Route A2 – Shotover Bridge to Frankton:** Kā Huanui a Tāhuna are progressing the design including options for the Jim's Way bridge. s 9(2)(g)(i)
- **Route A3 – SH6 to Frankton Track:** The detailed design of the Campground pathway (pedestrian route) is being completed and is being progressed by Kā Huanui a Tāhuna for construction.
- **Route A7 – Jacks Point to Frankton:** Engagement with property owners (primarily Remarkables Station Trust) s 9(2)(g)(i)

- **Other Live Projects**

- **Travel Demand Management Single Stage Business Case (SSBC)** – just entering procurement, the business case will investigate a programme of TDM initiatives to support and optimise other investments and mode shift efforts.
- **Arthurs Point Crossing** – new crossing of the Shotover River in Arthurs Point as the historic one-way Edith Cavell bridge reaches end of life. With the SSBC complete, site investigations and an options report are underway to test staging and opportunities to provide a walking & cycling connection in the short term. Will connect new developments in Arthurs Point with the Arthurs Point to Queenstown Transport Choices project.
- **Hawthorne Drive/Red Oaks Drive Signalisation** – under construction at one of the only 5-lane sections of road in Queenstown, the project will provide a safe crossing on a key desire line between Whakatipu High School and the activity centre on the other side of the road.

Appendix 1 - State Highway 6/6A (BP) Intersection



Appendix 2 - The Queenstown Spatial Plan Overview

