

**MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE**

Subject	State Highway 1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements blessing and sod turning event
Date	16 June 2023
Briefing number	BRI-2805

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
James Caygill	Director Regional Relationships (Canterbury/West Coast/Otago/Southland)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Sean Walsh	Regional Manager Central and Lower South Island			

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen by Minister
- ☐ Agreed
- ☐ Feedback provided
- ☐ Forwarded to
- ☐ Needs change [please specify]
- ☐ Withdrawn
- ☐ Overtaken by events

Hon Kieran McAnulty – Acting Minister of Transport

STATE HIGHWAY 1 TINWALD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS BLESSING AND SOD TURNING

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about the State Highway 1 (SH1) Tinwald Corridor Improvements project prior to the blessing and sod turning on 1 July 2023 from 10:45am-11:45am.

Project funding and costs

2. The cost for the rural intersection safety improvements package (which includes the SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements project) is \$45 million and is funded by the Canterbury package of the New Zealand Upgrade Programme (NZUP).
3. The current expected construction cost for intersection safety improvements, focusing on two growing rural town centres in Canterbury (Ashburton and West Melton), is \$8.5 million (including contingencies). The funding allocation is \$15 million (including contingencies).

Project features

4. Key features of the SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements project include:
 - The installation of traffic signals at the intersection of SH1, Lagmhor Road and Agnes Street
 - A shared path along one side of Agnes Street and Thomson Street
 - An upgraded level rail crossing to prevent queuing across the train tracks
 - A safer cycle route to the Ashburton River Bridge and the rail viaduct via Melcombe Street.

Project benefits

5. Key benefits of the SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements project include:
 - Improved safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly the large number of school children who cross the highway each day
 - Creating dedicated gaps in the traffic flow on SH1 through adding a signalised intersection, which will help vehicles turn safely onto the highway from local roads and will provide safer and better crossing facilities for people walking and cycling
 - Reduced community severance
 - Improved safety at the rail crossing.

Project context

6. The SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements project is a key part of the Canterbury package included in the NZUP. The upgrade to the SH1 / Lagmhor Road / Agnes Street intersection and adjacent streets will make it safer and easier for people in Tinwald to cross between east and west residential areas – in cars, walking or by bike. It will also mean crossing and getting on and off the highway is easier at peak travel times.
7. Improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians will make it safer and easier for people from west Tinwald to visit local shops and businesses, instead of travelling to Ashburton, as many do now.
8. The project design also supports the wider transport network (agriculture, industry, freight and rail requirements), accommodates growth to the south of Tinwald, and starts to establish travel routes and connections, which will include Ashburton's second urban bridge in the long-term.

Key messages

9. Key messages of the SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements project include:
 - We are working with iwi, Ashburton District Council and KiwiRail on improvements to the SH1/Lagmhor Road/Agnes Street intersection and surrounding streets to improve safety and access for local residents
 - Tinwald is a part of Ashburton, a fast-growing rural town centre in Canterbury, and will benefit from the \$45 million investment in rural intersection safety improvements included in the NZUP – this includes a range of transport projects that will provide more travel choices and help people get to where they're going safely.
 - The Programme is playing a vital role in helping to stimulate the economy, with a pipeline of work for the construction industry and jobs on projects like this.

Other matters

10. The community has been pushing for a second bridge over the Ashburton River. A detailed business case has been prepared by the Ashburton District Council and submitted to us for inclusion in the National Land Transport Programme, this is currently being considered. The key message is that the SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements project is not happening instead of the second bridge, they are two separate projects.

You have received the following briefings on this subject:

11. MIN-4079 Second Ashburton Bridge, 6 March 2023
12. MINO-0054 Proposed traffic signals in Tinwald and Ashburton, 5 February 2020

Ministerial start of construction event

13. The event will be located at the Intersection of Melcombe Street and Lagmhor Road in Tinwald
14. A blessing, speeches and a sod turning ceremony will take place.

Key attendees to acknowledge

15. The key attendees invited for the SH1 Tinwald Corridor Improvements blessing and sod turning ceremony include the following:

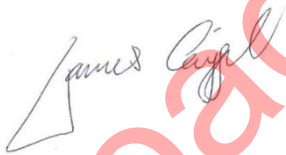
- Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua representatives (the following people are invited but may not be in attendance):
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- Liz McMillan, Deputy Mayor of Ashburton
- All Ashburton District councillors

Media

16. We expect some local media interest.
17. The local newspaper, *The Ashburton Guardian*, published a story in late 2022 about how 'lessons learned' from the Walnut Avenue project in Ashburton (2021) will be put into practice for the Tinwald Corridor Improvements.

It is recommended that you:

18. Note the contents of this briefing.
19. Forward this briefing to Jo Luxton MP.



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James Caygill,

Director Regional Relationships, West Coast, Canterbury, Otago, Southland

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Hon Kieran McAnulty, Acting Minister of Transport

Date:

2023