



Kawarau Falls Bridge Replacement Project

PROJECT UPDATE

APRIL 2016

Work on the new two-lane Kawarau Falls Bridge on State Highway 6 at Frankton is now moving up a gear with a lot more activity on site and even more to follow over the coming weeks.

Scheduled to open in the second half of 2017, the new bridge is among the largest highway projects seen in the Queenstown area.

The NZ Transport Agency is delivering this project on behalf of the government as part of its Accelerated Regional Road Package.



A recent aerial picture that shows downstream from the existing bridge, the now cleared south bank construction site for the new two-lane bridge.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

The south bank of the river is also being prepared for the launch of the curved portion of the new bridge.

Overhead power lines were removed in early March and the power supply re-routed underground and along the existing single-lane bridge. This has allowed clearance work to start on the north river bank to provide access to construct another trestle partly across the river. A safe navigation passage will remain for commercial jet boats on the river. The exposed river banks have been stabilised with geotextile fabrics to manage erosion and control sediment getting into the river.



The 150 tonne Crawler crane that will drive the piles for the trestles that will extend out into the river, to provide a platform for workers to build the new bridge piers.

WORK THAT'S COMING UP

- » Core drilling on the south side of the existing bridge to confirm the depth of foundation piles required for the bridge's new southern abutment. Once this is done, the team will move to the north end of the bridge to complete exploratory boreholes.
- » Steel fabrication work for the new bridge will be carried out in Napier from the end of April then transported to Frankton.

TRAFFIC IN THE AREA

- » A 50km/h speed restriction is in place through the construction site to ensure both the safety of the workers and public at all times.
- » Expect more truck traffic at both ends of the bridge as delivery of materials and equipment ramps up on site.

What will the new bridge deliver?

- » More predictable journey times for bridge users.
- » Eliminate often lengthy traffic delays at the current bridge, especially on peak ski season days.
- » A stronger bridge built to withstand a once in every 2,500-year earthquake.
- » Improved links to Queenstown International Airport, Frankton Flats and Queenstown.
- » The safer and more efficient movement of freight and people south of Queenstown, to key destinations such as Milford Sound and Invercargill.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Each newsletter, we will publish an historical picture of the original bridge build.

October 1925 - workers commence site preparation on the existing single-lane bridge.



SAFETY INFORMATION

Throughout the construction of the new bridge, the public (including cyclists and pedestrians) will have access over the existing bridge.

Before entering any active work zones it's important to check with one of the on-site project team members, (they are the people wearing hard hats and high visibility-vests) to ensure it's safe to enter the area.

The reason why it's important to check is because there can be hazards such as open excavations or heavy equipment operating in these areas. The construction team is committed to zero harm on construction site for both workers and the public.



PROJECT CONTACTS

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