

Consultation Update

December 2010

State Highway 1 (SH1) / Russley Road four laning (Wairakei Road to Yaldhurst Road) and Memorial Avenue intersection upgrade.

Thank you to all who attended the open day or contacted us with feedback. We're committed to working with local residents and businesses to find the most appropriate outcome for SH1/Russley Road and this would not be possible without your input. The consultation process for this stage of the project is nearing its end, so we'd like to tell you about the next steps.

- Local residents, community groups and schools voiced concerns about the increased traffic volumes on local roads.
- Property owners had concerns about how they will get to and from their properties.
- Local businesses were concerned customers and suppliers may find access difficult and wanted access to Russley Road and the airport area to remain.
- Cyclists are concerned about access across and along Russley Road
- Emergency services wanted to make sure access to the area would not be compromised
- Many didn't understand why SH1 needs to be designed for vehicles travelling at up to 100km per hour
- Others wanted to be sure all options had been considered
- Nearly everyone believed that it was vital for SH1 to be upgraded as traffic volumes are already causing major holdups at peak times
- There was general support for an interchange solution at Memorial Avenue.

Work continues

The NZTA had already committed to two studies; a Transportation Impact Assessment and a Social Impact Assessment. These studies will determine how traffic is redistributed if the changes at Avonhead, Memorial and Wairakei Roads go ahead, and the subsequent social and commercial impacts.

After considering the feedback so far, we have also decided to evaluate other options that could enable more access to SH1 (Russley Road). We will consider these options using a number of criteria including effectiveness, cost and impact on the local community. The Christchurch International Airport Limited (CIAL) and Christchurch City Council (CCC) have agreed to be involved with this study.

Next steps

Feedback from this round of consultation will be analysed and considered in depth. We hope to complete the transportation and social impact assessments and evaluation of alternatives by the end of February 2011 and NZTA will then inform stakeholders of the consultation and study findings.

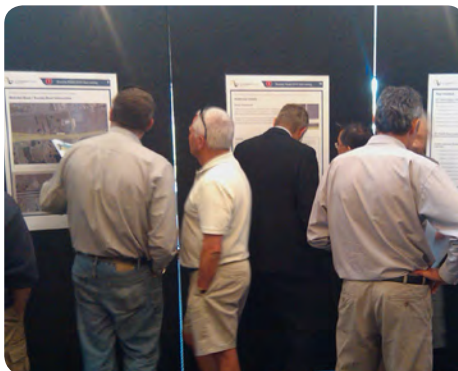
Over the next few months preliminary work to widen SH1 between Yaldhurst and Avonhead Roads to four lanes will continue. Traffic demand along SH1 (Russley Road) is such that four laning will be required regardless of the outcome of the other work we are doing.

Thank you once again for your feedback and taking part in this process. Merry Christmas and we will be back in touch in the New Year.



Over the last few weeks NZTA staff have been gathering feedback after presenting the upgrade of SH1 (Russley Road) between Yaldhurst and Wairakei Roads and SH1 (Russley)/Memorial Interchange. A necessary part of exploring this interchange option was an independent safety audit. This audit revealed that for the interchange to operate safely, with a speed limit of 80km/h on SH1, access at Wairakei Road would need to be reduced to a SH1 southbound exit only and Avonhead Road would need to be closed.

We've received a lot of feedback and questions about how the proposed SH1(Russley)/Memorial interchange and resulting changes at Wairakei and Avonhead Roads will impact on the local community. Over the next few weeks we'll be considering all the feedback in depth. The most common questions and concerns were as follows:



RoNS Background

The Roads of National Significance (RoNS)

As a small, sparsely populated country distant from world markets, New Zealand relies on a robust transport network to move people, goods and services safely and efficiently.

Infrastructure development is important to the Government's plans for economic growth and the Government has identified seven essential state highways that are linked to New Zealand's economic prosperity. These are the Roads of National Significance (RoNS). RoNS projects represent a 'lead infrastructure' approach, meaning the Government is investing in infrastructure now to encourage future economic growth rather than wait until the strain on the network becomes a handbrake on progress. NZTA is charged with delivering these highway projects within the next 10 years.

The Christchurch RoNS project has three main sections - the Northern, Western and Southern Corridors. Improving these roads will provide critical links to the Christchurch International Airport (SH1), into the Christchurch Central Business District and to the Port of Lyttelton (SH74 and SH73).



Project Background

The government has identified the Carmen, Russley and Johns Road section of State Highway 1 (collectively known as the Western Corridor) as part of the seven roads of national significance (RoNS). This highway is critical for supporting economic growth, reducing congestion and improving safety in our region. Traffic volumes on SH1 are increasing and this is expected to continue into the future. To improve travel times, efficiency and safety on this section of highway, NZTA is proposing to widen the state highway to four lanes between Main North Road and Main South Road. This work is being undertaken in stages. The section of Russley Road between Wairakei Road and Yaldhurst Road will be the first stage.

The Memorial Avenue Intersection with SH1 (Russley Road) provides the primary access to Christchurch International Airport. The intersection is currently a large diameter roundabout. The increasing traffic volumes through this intersection are leading to a reduction in safety, increased travel times, and loss of travel time reliability to and from the airport. Pedestrians and cyclists are also poorly catered for through the current intersection.

Options for improving the SH1 (Russley Road)/Memorial intersection were investigated and consulted on in March 2010 and a preferred layout for a new grade separated interchange was put forward - with Memorial Avenue remaining at ground level and SH1 (Russley Road) passing over on a bridge.



Our contact details

Richard Shaw
NZ Transport Agency
Telephone +64 3 963 3200

Mark Mabin or Tim Ensor
Macdow/Downer JV Project Team
Telephone +64 3 374 8562

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/russley-road-four-laning/index.html>