



A Gateway to Christchurch

The intersection of Memorial Avenue and Russley Road (SH1) is the gateway to Christchurch City, Canterbury and to the South Island of New Zealand. The Christchurch gateway bridge is one of the first things travellers will see when entering the city from the airport. The bridge has been designed to welcome people and tell them something about where they are.

This bridge will be a powerful gateway symbol for Christchurch and it will form part of the future identity of our City.



Cultural and Historical References

Historically this area of Canterbury was a place people passed through on the way to Puari Pa on the banks of the Ōtākaro (Avon River) to gather mahinga kai in the wetlands and waterways of Otautahi. The two arches symbolise the coming together of cultures.

The Design Competition Process

The competition that selected this concept was run jointly by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA), the Christchurch City Council (CCC) and Christchurch International Airport Limited (CIAL). Five design teams involving architects, urban designers and sculptors were invited to submit a concept that would reflect the design principles. The five design concepts were presented to a review team made up of personnel from the NZTA, CCC and CIAL. The review team sought expert input from an urban design panel and iwi and also considered a review of the costs and structural engineering aspects for each option. The chosen design concept was then developed further through a detailed engineering design process which has resulted in the gateway option presented here.

Feedback

If you would like to give us feedback on this project you can email us at:

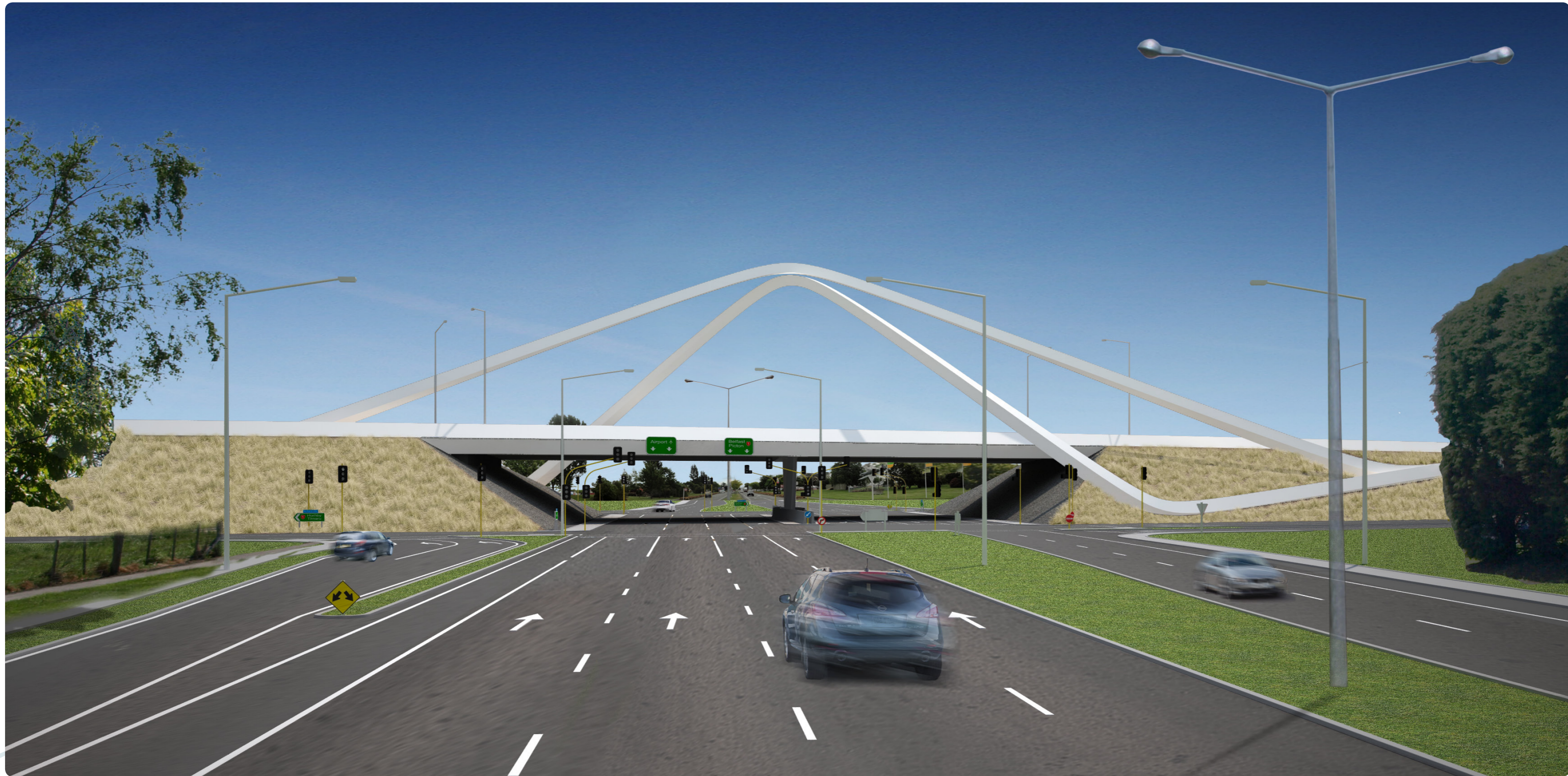
russleyroad@nzta.govt.nz

Design Principles

A partnership of the NZ Transport Agency, Christchurch City Council and Christchurch International Airport Limited ran an urban design competition to develop a design concept that will enhance the significance of the Memorial Avenue and Russley Road (SH1) intersection. The brief provided to the competitors outlined a number of design principles to be incorporated into the final concept.

The principles:

- Create a legacy for Christchurch
- Enhance the intersection as a 'Gateway' to Christchurch, Canterbury and New Zealand
- Respond to views of the Port Hills and the Southern Alps
- Respond to the character of Memorial Avenue, heritage elements and wider Christchurch
- Effective integration with surrounding land uses
- Respond to tangata whenua history and values
- Low impact design
- Consider value for money in terms of 'whole of life' cost of infrastructure.



Gateway to the south

The design draws on the vertical power of the Southern Alps and the braided rivers, unique to the Canterbury Plains. The design will provide a dramatic gateway for all travellers on Memorial Avenue and Russley Road (SH1). This is achieved by having the bridge's structure obliquely cross SH1 in a clear arc which is equally powerful from all points of view.

As a Christchurch legacy project, the design will generate a unique and memorable view. Linking the speed and adventure of travel with the essence of the local landscape, the project aims to capture the unique moment of arrival and departure from the city of Christchurch.

Integrated Concept

The bridge is more than functional - it is symbolic of the crossing of paths and the convergence of air and land travel. The arching, fluid form captures the dynamism, excitement and speed of travel on the ground and in the air, recognising the unique airport location within the alluvial patterns of the Canterbury Plains. The finely tuned structure refers to both the manufacture and movement of aircraft.

The Landscape

The design is a natural outcome of considering the location. The landscape itself provides the most powerful possible inspiration through the Southern Alps and the braided rivers unique to the Canterbury Plains. By directly translating the vertical power of the Alps and the crossing strands of rivers, the design captures the essence of Christchurch's geography in a clear and memorable way.