



Russley Road heading north from Yaldhurst Road

Christchurch Motorways



Russley Road (SH1) Four Laning

Wairakei Road to Yaldhurst Road

November 2010

The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) is upgrading Russley Road (SH1) between Yaldhurst Road and Wairakei Road to a four lane highway, including improvements to the Russley Road (SH1)/Memorial Avenue intersection.

Project background

The government has identified the Carmen / Russley / 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, the 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 phases. The section of Russley Road between Wairakei Road and Yaldhurst Road will be the first phase.

The Memorial Avenue intersection with Russley Road (SH1) provides the primary access to Christchurch International Airport. The intersection is currently a large two lane roundabout with an 80km/h speed limit on the state highway approaches. The increasing traffic through the intersection is leading to a reduction in safety, increased travel time to and from the airport, and loss of travel time reliability. Pedestrians and cyclists are also poorly catered for through the current intersection. Improvements to the intersection form an integral part of the project to four-lane this section of SH1.

What are the benefits?

- On completion of the project, traffic will flow freely along Russley Road helping reduce travel times for people and freight to and from Christchurch International Airport and around greater Christchurch;
- The additional lanes will be separated by a raised median which will improve highway safety;
- The design incorporates environmental benefits by managing stormwater run-off from the highway; and
- Outlook will be improved by relocating overhead services underground and planting native shrubs in the raised median.

What's inside?

- Project Update
- What happens next?
- Want to know more?
- Details of open day 30th November



Russley Road Memorial Avenue Intersection

What happens next?

An open day will be held on 30th November at Russley Golf Club from 3:30 to 7:30pm at which there will be additional project information and project team members available to answer questions.

Construction of Stage 1 will commence before Christmas this year starting with site clearance and service relocation works to the south of Ryans Road. Design is underway for Stage 2 and safety and local area impact studies will begin soon. Construction will begin after this work is completed but not before the Rugby World Cup.

The construction of each stage will last approximately two years. We will keep you up to date with developments on this project through website updates and future newsletters.

Want to know more?

If you have questions about the project or require additional information please

- Visit the project website at www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/christchurch-motorways.
- Attend a public open day.
- Email your query to yaldhurst.wairakei@nzta.govt.nz.
- Contact the project representatives below.

Open Day!

30th November at
Russley Golf Club from
3:30 to 7:30pm

Our contact details

For more information contact:

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Project update

Stage 1: Four Laning Proposals

The four laning of Russley Road (SH1) between Yaldhurst Road and Avonhead Road has been designed and consented. Key features of this work include:

- Widening Russley Road (SH1) to create two lanes in each direction, separated by a raised median.
- Providing for treatment of stormwater runoff.
- Relocating overhead services such as power and telephone lines.
- Landscaping the road corridor.

- Alterations to the Ryans Road / Russley Road (SH1) Intersection.
- Removal of on-street parking between the Airport Business Park and Yaldhurst Road.
- U-turn facilities at regular intervals to provide access to properties and businesses.
- A 2.5m wide shoulder to improve safety for cyclists.

Stage 2: Interchange Proposals

The options for improvements to the Russley Road (SH1) / Memorial Avenue intersection have been investigated and consulted on recently. This process identified a preferred layout for the interchange which is Russley Road (SH1) passing over Memorial Avenue which remains at ground level.

A safety audit of the proposed interchange layout has identified insufficient room for Avonhead and Wairakei Road traffic to safely enter and exit Russley Road (SH1).

It is therefore proposed that access to and from Avonhead Road will be closed completely. Access to Wairakei Road will only be provided for south bound traffic on Russley Road (SH1). Further studies are being undertaken to assess the affect of these changes on the local area.

The Team

The NZTA has contracted McConnell Dowell Constructors and Downer New Zealand, in a joint venture, to complete the project, including design and consenting for Stage 2. The McConnell Dowell / Downer joint venture has in turn contracted environmental and engineering consultants URS New Zealand to assist them with this.

