



# Kawarau Falls Bridge Replacement Project

PROJECT UPDATE

DECEMBER 2015



A computer generated image of the new two-lane Kawarau Falls Bridge

Work has started on a modern \$22 million two-lane bridge on State Highway 6 (SH6) at Kawarau Falls, Frankton near Queenstown.

The NZ Transport Agency is delivering this project on behalf of the government as part of its Accelerated Regional Road Package announced in 2014. To qualify for this funding, projects had to be fully investigated, designed and address current safety, resilience or productivity issues.

McConnell Dowell Constructors are building the new bridge which is scheduled to open in the second half of 2017. This is the largest highway project seen in the Queenstown area in decades.

## BENEFITS OF BRIDGE PROJECT

- » More predictable journey times via a modern new two-lane bridge.
- » The new bridge addresses the short to medium traffic growth issues facing the Frankton Flats area.
- » Elimination of the sometimes lengthy traffic delays at the existing single lane bridge, especially on peak ski season days.
- » Designed to withstand a once in every 2500-year earthquake. The new bridge will be less vulnerable to extended closures caused by major natural events that would effectively close the southern highway access into the Queenstown area.
- » More efficient links to Queenstown International Airport, the Frankton Flats area and central Queenstown.
- » Ensure the safer and more efficient movement of goods, services and people south of Queenstown, to major tourist destinations such as Milford Sound.
- » Once the new bridge opens, the existing single-lane bridge will be adapted to provide safe off-highway access for cyclists and pedestrians connecting south of the river with the Frankton and Queenstown areas.





The existing single-lane bridge

Development growth on the Frankton Flats and significant increases in visitor numbers to Queenstown, are the main contributors to traffic delays at the existing single lane bridge that doesn't have the capacity to handle these increasing vehicle volumes. Traffic counts taken in 2014 show just over 7000 vehicles a day are now using this bridge. A new bridge is needed to manage these pressures by smoothing traffic flows and providing more predictable journeys for road users.

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

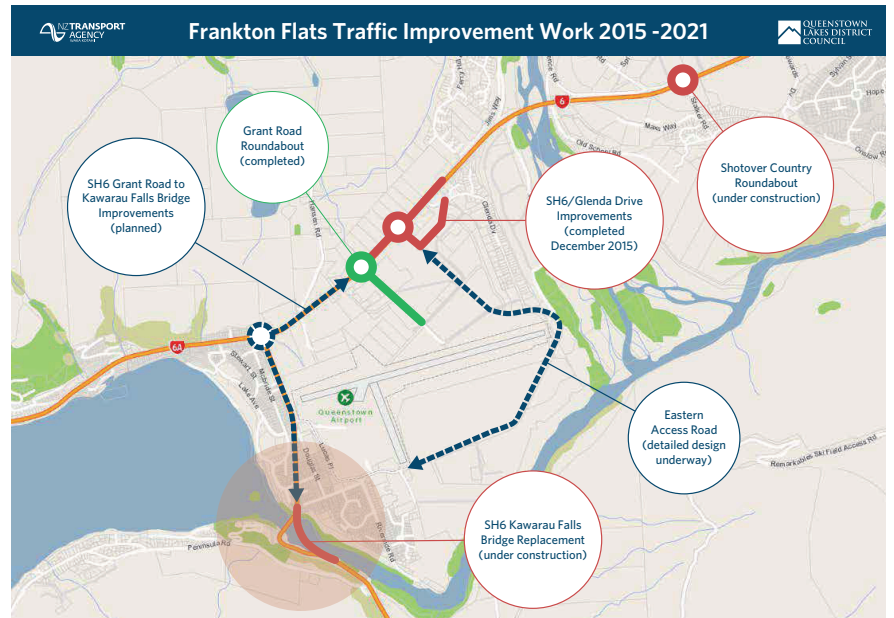
During the project, the public will be kept up to date with current traffic management via signage and notices advising updates. Whilst every effort will be made to keep traffic moving through the work site, some delays are inevitable and road users should allow extra time in their travel plans for potential delays. Road layouts will change over the course of the project and making it essential for all road users to follow all site signage and to drive to the conditions.

## THE WIDER FRANKTON FLATS TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS PICTURE

In addition to the new Kawarau Falls Bridge, other work has been either recently completed, is underway or planned, to manage traffic growth in the Frankton Flats area. The SH6 Glenda Drive Intersection Improvements Project will be fully completed early in the new year, while the SH6 Grant Road roundabout opened in October 2015. Design work has begun on the Eastern Access Road, with construction work possibly starting in late 2016.

This Queenstown Lakes District Council project, co-funded by the NZ Transport Agency, will provide more efficient links and predictable journeys from SH6 to developments on both sides of Queenstown International Airport.

In addition to these improvements, the Transport Agency is working with the Queenstown Lakes District Council on measures to improve traffic flows on a 3km section of State Highway 6 between the Kawarau Falls Bridge and Grant Road roundabout. Details on these and likely implementation timelines are expected to be finalised during 2016.



## PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION

Throughout construction, the public (including cyclists and pedestrians) will have access over the existing bridge. Before entering any active work zones check with one of the on-site project team members, (someone in a hard hat and high-vis vest) that it's safe to enter the area. Often there could be hazards such as open excavations or heavy equipment operating in these areas. The construction team has a major focus on zero harm on construction site for both workers and members of the public.

## NEW KAWARAU FALLS BRIDGE WORK FROM DECEMBER 2015 TO EARLY FEBRUARY 2016

Site preparation work is the focus over this period and includes removing existing vegetation at both ends of the bridge, earthworks, relocating overhead power lines and commencing to install the bridge trestle.