

## Save money – share a ride

More than 10,000 Waimakariri residents travel to work in Christchurch each day and about 80% to 85% of these vehicles have only one occupant during peak travel times. Everyone can save money and time by sharing their ride with one or more passengers in their vehicle.

Let's Carpool is the easy way to find a carpool match. Join our rapidly expanding community of Waimakariri members to find carpool partners for your regular commute or a one-off trip.

Carpooling is an option that can save you money and minimise parking worries while reducing the number of cars on the road.

Journey sharing can be as flexible as you want it to be. It's all up to you.

Fill those empty seats in your car and register now at: [www.lets carpool.govt.nz](http://www.lets carpool.govt.nz)

## What about light rail?

Environment Canterbury and partners have investigated introducing a commuter rail service from Rangiora on the existing railway line to help reduce northern congestion in the short term.

It was found not to be viable in the short-term for three key reasons:

- The railway line doesn't take people where they need to go. Many Waimakariri commuters work near the airport and central city which are not well serviced by the existing track.
- Costs were too high as would need to upgrade stations and buy/lease, operate and maintain trains. We would still need to run bus services as well to service the bus stops in between the stations and many people would still need to buy an additional bus ticket as well.
- Use of the existing single track by freight would restrict the potential timetable and could delay passenger services.

We haven't ruled out light rail in the long term, but for now a package of bus improvements is a better, more cost-effective, short-term solution for everyone.

# 1 Northern Motorway congestion

May 2016



## Survey supports carpooling to ease congestion

Carpooling is the best option to help alleviate morning commuter congestion on Christchurch's Northern Motorway, according to the results of a new commuter survey.

Eighty percent of those surveyed indicated they would be open to the idea of carpooling or already carpool.

Peak-hour congestion on the Northern Motorway will never be totally eliminated, even when the new Western Corridor and Northern Arterial are built because of the continual growth in traffic volumes from the north.

What everyone needs to start thinking about is how they move about and consider using alternative transport options to their private car, such as carpooling, which gives more capacity on the network. Carpooling and public transport are part of the transport network and greater use of these will help reduce congestion.

Those surveyed said they wanted incentives, such as carpooling lanes, to make carpooling easier.

The survey was completed by almost 400 commuters in late November/early December last year with most morning commuters finding the congestion both frustrating and unsatisfactory. However, few commuters saw public transport as an alternative option.

Most respondents said they chose their usual method of travel because of the convenience and flexibility it provided. The majority of those who had passengers had just one passenger, of which about 75% were related. The remainder of passengers tended to be work colleagues.

More than 70% of motorists did not pay for their parking, 10% had it paid for them; 10% paid for parking all the time and 9% some of the time.

Respondents perceived public transport as slower than driving and also inconvenient, with only 3% of those surveyed being regular bus users, this compares with 90% who drove.

Motorists are, however, forewarned that they will continue to experience delays and frustrations if they do not change their travel behaviour, look at alternative options and travel at alternative times.

The full results of the survey are at: <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/christchurch-motorways/Northern-Corridor-Research-Report.pdf>

## MOTORWAY MANNERS

Motorway Manners is a series of videos by the NZ Transport Agency to help you drive smarter on the Northern Motorway during the morning commute.

These clips give advice on how best to merge at the on-ramps; why queuing at the on-ramps is better for everyone; what are the impacts of rat-running and entering from side roads; and why the variable speed signs need to be obeyed – apart from the fact these speeds are legally enforceable.

Take a few minutes to view these at ..... [link to be provided] and help reduce congestion and make your morning commute a little better.



For more information, please visit <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/christchurch-motorways/>

## New highways to help with predictable journeys

The NZ Transport Agency is building two new highways to the north of Christchurch – the Western Corridor and Northern Arterial – that will help ease congestion and provide motorists with more predictable journey times, particularly during the morning peak.

These two new routes are also designed to:

- improve access to Christchurch's Central City, Christchurch International Airport and Lyttelton Port
- allow for improved cycle and pedestrian facilities and public transport infrastructure
- provide safer streets by moving freight trucks and commuter traffic off suburban roads
- support economic growth by moving people and goods more quickly and efficiently
- support the urban growth plans for North Canterbury and Christchurch.

**The Western Belfast Bypass** is a new road which bypasses Belfast to the west and connects with State Highway 1 at The Groynes. SH1 is being four-laned through to Hornby and is known as the Western Corridor.

This project will remove about half the traffic from Main North Road through Belfast and greatly reduce traffic at the Main North Road/Johns Road intersection. It is well underway and expected to be completed in early 2018.

Three sections of the Western Corridor have already been completed, the remaining three, which includes the Western Belfast Bypass, are expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

**The Northern Arterial and Extension**, bypasses Belfast and Redwood to the east, connecting with QEII Drive, and through to Cranford Street. It includes upgrading Cranford Street to four lanes through to Innes Road.\*

This project will also remove a considerable amount of traffic from Main North Road through Redwood which will allow improved public transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Features are:

- the four-laning of QEII Drive from Main North Road to Innes Road
- on and off-road pedestrian and cycle links
- a third northbound lane on the Waimakariri Bridge through to Tram Road.

**Construction of the Northern Arterial will start later this year and take about three and half years to complete.**

\* Funding and construction timing for the Northern Arterial Extension and Cranford Street Upgrade have yet to be confirmed by Christchurch City Council.



## Hitch a ride

Environment Canterbury is helping to reduce congestion on Christchurch's Northern Motorway by improving public transport services.

Every time you catch a bus you are not only saving on parking and petrol costs, but it gives you time to relax, catch-up on emails or social media while you're being driven. By catching a bus, you can do your bit to reduce traffic congestion, reduce environmental pollution and create the open-space city we said we wanted to create post-earthquake.

Planned improvements include introducing a new commuter bus service to the airport commercial and industrial area and Hornby, as well as increasing the frequency of some bus services and altering routes to improve coverage.

Once these changes happen, the Blue Line will travel the existing route through Rangiora, but use Flaxton and Skewbridge roads instead of Lineside Road to Silverstream with four additional express trips each morning and afternoon.

The 95 Waikuku and Pegasus to City will alter its route slightly and run two additional trips each morning and afternoon. A new high frequency Waimakariri shuttle service will replace the 951 and 952 services and be extended to Belfast, and a new Rangiora to Airport and Hornby commuter bus service will also be introduced.

## Park and ride facilities

The Waimakariri District Council will be providing Park and Ride facilities in Rangiora at White Street and Silverstream Boulevard, to coincide with changes to the Blue Line route and the introduction of the new Rangiora to Christchurch Airport route.

Bus users can drive or cycle to these facilities, knowing there will be a parking space for their car or bike and jump on the bus for the rest of their journey into Christchurch.

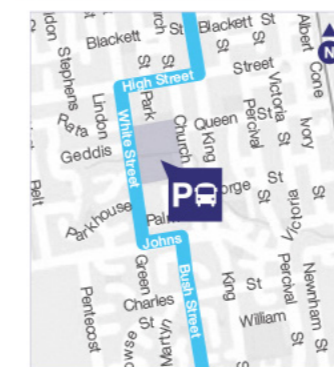
In White Street, parking will be provided on-street with improved bus shelter facilities and cycle parks. In Silverstream, parking will be available next to the retail area.

Parking in both areas will be free – the only cost being the bus fare as you get onboard.

Using the Park and Ride facilities will help reduce traffic congestion on the Northern Motorway and improve journey times for all road users.

The Waimakariri District Council will also consider other areas for Park and Ride facilities in the future.

### Rangiora Park and Ride



### Silverstream Park and Ride

