



# Tucker Beach Road intersection improvements



Aerial view of the project worksite

Safety improvements to the SH6/Tucker Beach Road intersection are going well with work happening on several fronts.

This \$6.4 million NZ Transport Agency project involves upgrading an existing road below the Shotover Bridge that will connect to a new traffic slip lane on to the Frankton bound lane of SH6. When completed in April 2019, these improvements mean Tucker Beach traffic no longer has to turn right across two lanes of heavy highway traffic to drive west toward Frankton.

Strong visitor growth and associated upsurge in economic activity in Queenstown is driving major traffic growth, especially in Frankton, where most of the commercial developments associated with the visitor boom are happening. Big increases in residential developments between Lake Hayes and Queenstown is another contributing factor to the sharp rise in the amount of traffic on SH6. With so many more vehicles on the highway it is becoming more difficult for Tucker Beach Road traffic, especially large vehicles such as buses and trucks, to turn right onto the highway.

## OFFERING TRAVEL CHOICES

This project is a good example of work that encourages locals and visitors to consider different ways of moving around the Queenstown and Frankton areas. Cycling is becoming increasingly important in both areas and this project improves safety and accessibility for both road and off-road cyclists, with the Queenstown Trails Network running through the project site. This project also enables better access for pedestrian and access to public transport services. It will also be easier and safer for heavy vehicles to connect to SH6.

## PROJECT BENEFITS

- Safer access on to SH6 for Tucker Beach Road traffic heading to Frankton and Queenstown.
- Improved and safer connections to the highway for the local Quail Rise Community.
- Reduce traffic delays at the Tucker Beach Road Intersection.
- Greater safety on SH6 between the Hawthorne Drive and Shotover Country roundabouts.
- Increased safety for cyclists.
- The creation of a modern intersection to manage rapidly increasing highway traffic volumes in this area.



# WHAT WORK IS UNDERWAY

This project provided an opportunity for Queenstown Lakes District Council to install new water and wastewater pipes under the highway from Tucker Beach Road west to Hardware Lane to cater for future developments in the surrounding area.

One of the most challenging aspects of this work has been excavating through various sections of rock but it is progressing well. Most existing underground services are now relocated clear of the new slip road on the highway embankment.

Good progress is being made on widening the connection from Tucker Beach Road to the slip road. Cables have been installed for the new street lighting from Tucker Beach Road to the slip road along with new stormwater drainage pipes and kerb and channel.

## WORKSITE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Current temporary traffic management restrictions will be reduced prior to Christmas to enable highway traffic to flow as smoothly as possible over the busy holiday period. Temporary speed restriction will be lifted from 30km/h to 50km/h with restrictions remaining in place around the Tucker Beach Road intersection for safety of road users.

By then work will have reached a stage where the temporary traffic signals can be removed for the Christmas break. We thank everyone for their patience while temporary speed restrictions through the worksite have been operating. While frustrating for drivers, these are essential for the safety of both road users and construction crews.

Work on this project starts again in early January when temporary traffic management restrictions will resume. Some work will be carried out at night, when the highway is reduced to one lane for pipe installation work.

Our roads can get busy during the summer. Seeking alternative routes or travelling at non-peak hours can make travel safer and more enjoyable. Check out our **holiday journeys tool** to prepare for potential traffic delays.

### KEY FEATURES

- Upgrading an existing underpass below the Shotover River Bridge, to form a separate traffic access point on to SH6 for Tucker Beach Road traffic travelling west to Frankton and Queenstown.
- A new slip road linking to the Frankton bound lane of SH6.
- Improved signage, road markings and lighting.
- The Installation of new water pipes to service future developments in the surrounding area. This work is being carried out on behalf of the Queenstown Lakes District Council.



Good progress is being made on the formation of the new slip road



The new slip road worksite looking towards Frankton



FOR MORE INFORMATION about this project go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh6-tucker-beach-road-intersection-improvements/](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh6-tucker-beach-road-intersection-improvements/)

PROJECT CONTACT Phil Dowsett [phil.dowsett@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:phil.dowsett@nzta.govt.nz)