



Dunedin to Port Chalmers Shared Path & Safety Improvements

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MAY 2018



Photo courtesy of Antony Hamel

Work on a multimillion dollar project to make SH88 between Dunedin and Port Chalmers safer will get underway this year.

The final section of the Dunedin to Port Chalmers shared path will be built, giving cyclists and pedestrians a safe way to travel away from traffic.

Safety improvements will also be made to SH88 to help stop people being seriously injured or killed in crashes.

THE SHARED PATH

The last stage of the shared pathway is 5km long and stretches between St Leonards and Port Chalmers. It will connect into the existing pathway giving cyclists and pedestrians a safe off-road route between Dunedin and Port Chalmers.

SH88 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

The safety improvements include roadside safety barriers to stop drivers from running off the road, high performance road markings that are easier to see at night and in the wet, and new signage to alert drivers corners are ahead.

The project team will also investigate ways to make the SH88/Finch Street intersection safer and look to improve pedestrian access to the shared pathway.

What is the cost and where does funding come from?

The project will cost \$20-25 million in total and is being funded by the NZ Transport Agency through the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP).

Why has it taken so long to get funding approved for the shared path?

Finding the safest route away from traffic for cyclists and pedestrians was not straightforward given the harbour edge environment and the steep grades through the Roseneath area. We worked through a range of design options to ensure we had an affordable and safe pathway that would help keep Dunedin travellers safe, and the city's transport network humming.

Have there been any design changes to the path?

A timber boardwalk structure is now proposed at Blanket Bay. The original design involved harbour reclamation to widen and extend the outer edge of the rail causeway. The existing railway line would have then been moved onto the reclaimed land, leaving enough room for the shared path.

Subsequent detailed design and consultation identified ground settlement and constructability risks, so a boardwalk will now be built to take cyclists and pedestrians around Blanket Bay. We are planning to build a viewing platform with information boards on the history of the heritage seawall on the boardwalk.

Will the community have an opportunity to provide feedback on the project?

Community feedback has been sought throughout the design stages of this shared path as we worked to provide the best path option for everyone. There is still the opportunity to view the alignment of the final section and provide further feedback online at:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/sh88sharedpath-feedback>.

The project team will be meeting/consulting with key stakeholders to discuss the safety work from late May.

What are the next steps?

Detailed design and tender documentation for the shared path is being completed and the final consents will be lodged soon. We are continuing to work with KiwiRail to agree on realigning the rail line and use the rail corridor for the shared path.

We are currently working with contractors to programme in the first stage of the safety work for later this year and we are working on treatment options for the Finch Street intersection. Once the options are finalised we will consult with the community and key stakeholders.

When is construction likely to start?

The first stage of the safety improvements on SH88 will get underway later this year.

Safety barriers, which will help prevent cars ending up in the harbour, will be installed at high risk sites along this route.

The areas were picked following a safety review that found installing barriers at these sites will make the road safer for motorists, without impacting on cyclist safety.

The review found that safety barriers could be installed at these sites before the shared path is built as the design allows the same, or in some cases, more room for cyclists travelling on SH88.

While these barriers will not change the status quo for cyclists they could mean the difference between life and death for people driving on this road. We are finalising the details of this work and will update the community before it starts.

The rest of the safety improvements, which include road markings, signage and the rest of the safety barriers, will be completed alongside the shared path project, which we expect to get underway next year.

How long will it take to finish the shared path?

About three years, although an exact time line depends on factors such as how quickly the reclamation work takes to settle. At this stage we hope to open the path to the public by 2021/22.

What are some of the construction challenges the project team faces?

The last leg of the shared path is one of the most geographically demanding cycle safety projects being planned by the NZ Transport Agency.

The project team will have to contend with the lack of natural space for the path and a tough coastal environment. Creating the space required involves the following:

- » Realigning section of the main trunk rail line and getting the necessary approvals to use the rail corridor for the path.
- » Reclaiming land from the harbour and leaving time for it to settle, which could take up to a year.
- » Building several retaining walls including one through the Roseneath cutting.
- » Traffic management to take account of port and cruise ship traffic.

Who is responsible for managing the path once it's completed?

The Dunedin City Council will manage the shared path once it is built. The highway safety work delivered at the same time will remain the responsibility of the NZ Transport Agency.

What is KiwiRail's role in this project?

KiwiRail's continued support is central to the success of this project. The completion of the shared path relies on their continued willingness to accommodate sections of the path within their rail corridor.

Where can I get information about this project?



www.nzta.govt.nz/sh88sharedpath