



Dunedin to Port Chalmers Safety Improvements project

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

NOVEMBER 2017

We're making State Highway 88 (SH88) from Dunedin to Port Chalmers safer for all road users by undertaking safety improvements on the highway and completing the separated shared path to Port Chalmers, for pedestrians and cyclists.

In addition to the shared path, the safety improvements will include:

- » roadside safety barriers to stop drivers from running off the road
- » high performance road markings to improve visibility at night and in wet conditions
- » upgrading curve signage
- » changes to increase safety at a number of intersections and improve pedestrian access to both the new and existing shared path.

What's the link between the shared path and plans to make the road safer??

The shared path and plans to make the road safer for all road users complement each other, which is why the two projects were merged into one broader Dunedin to Port Chalmers Safety Improvement project in early 2017.

How will the highway safety work tie in with construction of the new path?

Road safety improvements, which do not impact on the safety of cyclists, will be undertaken in 2018. The remainder of this work will be completed as the shared path is constructed.

What is the cost of the combined projects?

The current estimate for the broader Safety Improvement project is between \$25 and \$30 million. The project estimate requires an independent review as it is over the \$20 million threshold. This is good business practice, given the amount of public money that will be potentially invested in this project. However, planned construction is still on track to start in 2018.

What are the challenges to finishing the shared path?

The last leg of the path is one of the most geographically demanding cycle safety projects for the NZ Transport Agency. The challenges relate to the lack of natural space for the path and the coastal environment. Creating this space involves:

- » realigning the railway line and securing the necessary approvals for the use of the rail corridor.
- » reclaiming land from the harbour and the time required to allow it to settle (up to 12 months)
- » building numerous retaining walls, including one through the Roseneath cutting
- » temporary traffic management taking account of port and cruise ship traffic.

Were alternatives considered?

We worked through a range of design options to ensure a good solution for completing the shared path that is affordable and provides the best option for everyone. Options included removing some high cost segments such as the proposed reclamation and rail realignments at Sawyers Bay, and instead widening the existing footpath between Sawyers Bay and Port Chalmers to carry the shared path. While cheaper, the path would only be 1.2 metres wide in places, compromising safety and making the path less attractive for pedestrians and cyclists. It was decided that this was not a good compromise and the path alignment should remain as originally proposed.

Where is the project currently at?

A cost review is being undertaken following which a request for the allocation of funding for construction will be made. Work is continuing with KiwiRail to agree realignment of the rail line and use of the rail corridor.

How long will it take to complete the remaining section of the shared path??

Between 2 and 3 years, although an exact time will be dependent on the contractor's methodology as well as the challenges outlined above including how quickly the reclamation work takes to settle. Road safety improvements which do not impact on the safety of cyclists will be undertaken in the first half of 2018.

The remainder of this work will be completed as the shared path is constructed.

Who is funding this project?

The NZ Transport Agency is delivering the project on behalf of the government with funding from the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP). The Dunedin City Council will maintain and operate the shared path once it is built. The highway safety work remains the responsibility of the NZ Transport Agency

How does this project tie in with other work to improve transport for Dunedin?

It forms part of the work by Connecting Dunedin, a 5 to 10 year programme to make it better, safer and give everyone real choices about how they move around Dunedin.

The Transport Agency, Dunedin City Council and Otago Regional Council are working together to deliver this programme of work.

Where can I get information about this project?

Find out more about this project at



www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh88-dunedin-to-port-chalmers-walking-and-cycling-path-project/