NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

Why this work is important

Whirokino Trestle and Manawatu River Bridge 1

Keeping a critical road open

State Highway 1 is a critical part of New Zealand's transport network. The road plays an important part in moving people and freight. It's vital we keep the route open and safe, and that it meets modern standards.

Whirokino Trestle nearing the end of its life

The Whirokino Trestle is nearing the end of its life, and will need to be replaced in the next 10 – 20 years.

Reducing maintenance costs

Due to its age, the Whirokino Trestle requires a high level of maintenance and repairs, creating higher-than-necessary ongoing costs.

Route resilience

The age and condition of the Whirokino Trestle increases the risk of it being affected by an earthquake. A resilient route is vital to avoid the likelihood of SH1 being closed following a major disaster.

Meeting new standards

Highways standards have changed since the Whirokino Trestle and the Manawatu River Bridge were built. The bridges are narrow and no longer meet Transport Agency standards, mostly due to having very narrow shoulders.

Reducing delays

Traffic is delayed by regular maintenance and repairs, and to allow overweight/wide vehicles to pass.

Carrying heavy freight

Neither the Whirokino Trestle nor the Manawatu River Bridge is strong enough to carry HPMVs. This results in these vehicles needing to take a longer, less desirable route to get to and from Wellington.

Better flood management

The Whirokino Trestle has short spans between its piers. These obstruct flood flows and debris when the Moutoa Floodway is in use.

Safer cycling

The Manawatu River Bridge does not safely and conveniently accommodate cyclists.

What is a High Productivity Motor Vehicle?

HPMVs are longer and heavier than standard trucks which means they can carry more freight. They operate under a special permit and travel along specific roads and bridges that are able to accommodate the additional mass and/or length.