

Canterbury Waitaha



Canterbury is New Zealand's largest geographical region and an economic powerhouse, producing 57 percent of the South Island's GDP. Most people live in the Greater Christchurch area, where the population is projected to grow from 650,000 to about 780,000 by 2048. Major earthquakes have changed the region's growth patterns, resulting in significant transport challenges.

Construction and specialist manufacturing influence the economy, along with primary production and food processing, all of which rely on the roading network for business efficiency. As the South Island's main distribution centre, freight volumes are expected to double in the next 20 years, with 96 percent being moved by road.

The roading network also provides key connections and tourist routes across the Southern Alps to the West Coast and north along SH1 to Picton and the InterIslander, and south to Otago.

Economic growth and productivity

Roads of National Significance (RoNS)

The GPS proposes one RoNS as a strategic corridor to support economic growth and productivity in the region. We've included the following RoNS in this NLTP to be progressed as outlined below:

- We'll start work on **SH1 Belfast to Pegasus Motorway** and **Woodend Bypass**, which will:
 - support population growth by unlocking opportunities for housing development to the north of Christchurch
 - boost economic growth with reliable freight connectivity, reduced travel times and improve safety.

Roads of Regional Significance (RoRS)

The GPS also includes a number of RoRS in Canterbury which we'll progress as follows:

- **SH1 Rolleston access improvements**
We'll complete the design and property purchase for these access improvements and begin construction towards the end of the period. This work will continue in the 2027-30 NLTP and will unlock economic growth and improve safety.

\$1.8 billion

Forecast total investment

\$364 million

Forecast maintenance operations

\$541 million

Forecast pothole prevention

\$538 million

Forecast improvements

\$358 million

Forecast public transport

We'll also work with Selwyn District Council to complete works nearby at Walkers/Two Chain Road (roundabout construction) and Jones Road/Two Chain Road (realignment).

- **SH75 Halswell Road improvements (between Dunbars Road and Curletts Road)**

Halswell and nearby Wigram and Aidanfield suburbs are growing fast, with more people expected to move into southwest Christchurch over the next 30 years.

New commercial and residential developments are also planned in north Halswell, putting more demand on our existing roads.

Halswell Road is a key bus route, and significant delays are experienced during peak travel times.

We'll continue to build improvements, including new bus lanes, to make it safer and easier for people to get to and from the city and travel along this stretch of Halswell Road.

- We'll work with Ashburton District Council to progress the **second Ashburton Bridge** to:

- address growing traffic congestion
- create reliable journeys for freight
- solve connectivity issues between Ashburton and Tinwald
- improve safety
- manage impacts from natural disasters such as flooding
- provide an alternate north-south link during SH1 closures.

- **SH76 Brougham Street** will have design and strategic property purchase work completed in this NLTP, so it is ready to progress when funding is available.

Other improvements

- **Rangiora Eastern Link.** With Waimakariri District Council we'll complete a business case to reduce congestion in this growing North Canterbury town.

Increased maintenance and resilience

Maintenance

Increased funding to maintain and operate the state highway and local road networks will enable significant road and drainage renewal work to be done. Maintenance of existing assets ensures roads are safe and accessible for everyone to drive on.

State highways

- \$156 million will be invested this NLTP period maintaining state highway assets.
- \$177 million is ringfenced for state highway pothole prevention.

This \$333 million investment includes 575 lane kilometres of works:

- 459kms of chipseal.
- 73kms of rehabilitation.
- 5kms of structural asphalt.
- 38kms of asphalt resurfacing.

Local roads

With road controlling authorities in Canterbury we'll invest a total of \$573 million over this NLTP period.

- \$208m will be invested in operations.
- \$365m is ringfenced for local road pothole prevention.

Resilience

We'll complete several projects which will improve the quality of the network and give value for money over the life of the work. Some examples are below:

We'll replace asphalt on these busy freight routes:

- **SH76 Brougham Street** structural asphalt.
- **SH1 Timaru - Beverley to Trafalgar** structural asphalt.
- **SH1 Ashburton - SH77 junction to Ashburton Bridge** asphalt.
- **SH8 Windscombe Hill South of Fairlie** we'll complete 3 area wide treatments.
- We'll complete rehabilitations at:
 - **SH79 Tin Shed and Proudfoot's East**
 - **SH82 Waimate Gorge.**
- We'll improve **SH1 drainage resilience at St Andrews North, Molloy's Road and Hook Swamp Road.**
- We'll build a rockfall fence on **SH77 Rakaia Gorge** south side of river, to protect motorists and the highway, and to give reliable journey times.

Bridges and culverts

To support freight and resilience in rural South Canterbury we're replacing 2 ageing bridges on SH82, **Waihao North Branch Bridge** and **Elephant Hill Bridge.**

With Christchurch City Council, we'll start a replacement of **Pages Road Bridge** over the Avon River which is a key route for emergency evacuation of the area.

SH1 Taitaraikihi, Grant Road Timaru, we'll replace the culvert.

Rail

Rail network investment in this NLTP will be targeted to parts of the rail network where the most significant economic benefits and opportunities for boosting the productivity of freight movement exist. The Rail Network Investment Programme (RNIP) sets out planned network maintenance, management, renewal, and improvement work on the national rail network over a 3-year period. The next RNIP will be approved later in 2024 following further analysis.

Public transport

Implementation of the **National Ticketing Solution** allowing public transport users to tag on and off with their contactless debit or credit card will start from late 2024.

Safety

Delivery of an enhanced maintenance programme in 2024-27 will ensure maintenance funds are prioritised and ringfenced for road resealing, road rehabilitation and drainage maintenance which helps to make our roads safer.

Planned safety works will continue at a reduced level to finish off sections that have been started, targeting high-risk areas on major corridors. The focus of our lower cost interventions will be regional reactive small safety projects such as: signs and markings; audio tactile markings (rumble strips); and intersection speed zones at high-risk locations.

We'll also:

- Progress intersection improvements on **SH1 Hornby** to improve safety and reduce delays caused by crashes.
- Investigate intersection improvements at **SH1/SH73 intersection**, providing a key freight route and airport access.
- Safety improvements will be completed **SH1 Templeton to Selwyn River** and improvements designed for **SH1 Selwyn River to Ashburton**.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Centre (CVSC)

We'll construct the northbound CVSC near Rakaia (the southbound was completed in the 2021-24 NLTP period). CVSC will use the latest technology to check commercial vehicles for compliance with safety regulations. These high-tech centres check that freight operators are complying with regulations to keep everyone safe, check for overloading which can damage the road network, and help support economic growth.

Value for money

Value for money isn't always about seeking the lowest initial cost for a project - it must also take into consideration the whole-of-life costs and benefits of a project.

We're taking steps to make sure that all our work this NLTP provides good value for taxpayers. In Canterbury this will include reducing expenditure on temporary traffic management, increased investment in road maintenance and a focus on whole-of-life costs.

We'll improve the productivity of maintenance and improvement works, by considering the way works are:

- scoped
- planned
- procured
- undertaken.

Key projects 2024-27

Key

-  Economic growth and productivity
-  Maintenance and resilience
-  Safety
-  Commercial Vehicle Safety Centre
-  Roads of National Significance
-  Roads of Regional Significance
-  Port
-  Key routes



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