

1 Lions Back Realignment



The SH1 Lions Back project is roaring into action as the design of the road is complete and the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) has approved the construction funding necessary to carry out the work.

The \$5.2 million project to realign a 1.9km stretch of state highway 1, just south of Seddon, along the locally named 'Lions Back Hill', will start this spring with completion due mid-2011.

By moving the road east of its current location and incorporating sweeping curves at either end of the project, the design removes five tight corners along this section of road and significantly improves its safety. We are also widening the sealed shoulder to 3.5m in each direction over the hill to allow room for slower vehicles to move over to the left and allow other vehicles to pass safely.

Tender documents for the construction contract are being released in June 2010. There is a six week tender period for the contractors to price the work after which we will assess the tenders and award the contract. We expect to start work in early spring with the eight-month project programmed for completion by mid-2011 - although, as with all our projects, progress is very dependent upon the weather.

What's next?

Some power lines and a Telecom fibre optic cable along the route need to be relocated. This work is being done before the main contract begins, and will be the first sign to the community that this safety improvement project is about to get underway.

During construction traffic may be delayed for short periods of time but this will be advised closer to the time.

We ask that motorists take care when travelling through the project site and thank everyone for their patience as we work on these important safety improvements.

Background

Originally, just one tight bend on the Lions Back Hill was identified as being of concern to the NZTA. However, investigations in 2008 highlighted the benefits of improving road safety by realigning a longer section of the state highway to remove five tight corners over a 1.9km distance.

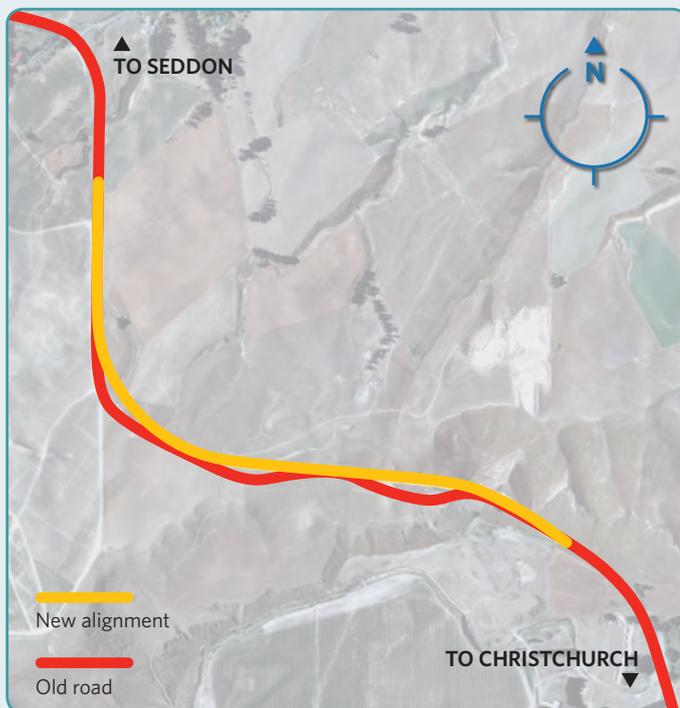
The recent design phase, carried out between September 2009 and May 2010, has seen the final design agreed, resource consents approved and land purchase agreements completed.



The existing road alignment looking north towards the Lions Back Hill summit.



This view shows the existing road looking south from the summit.



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