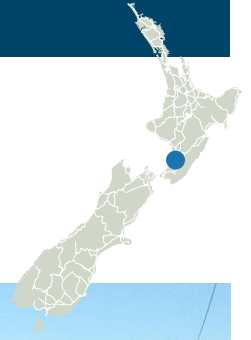




Whirokino Trestle Bridge replacement



BENEFITS

This project will enable more efficient heavy freight movements on SH1, improve safety, and provide a better environment for cycling.

The project objectives are to:

- remove the need for some heavy vehicles to take a 14km detour
- improve route security with stronger bridges
- provide wider traffic lanes and shoulders
- provide cycling lanes on the bridges
- reduce maintenance costs
- reduce delays.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Replacing two existing bridges on SH1 between Levin and Foxton.

BACKGROUND

Constructed in 1938, the existing Whirokino Trestle Bridge is an 1.1km-long, reinforced concrete bridge over the Moutoa Floodway and adjacent floodplain. It is narrow, nearing the end of its life and not strong enough to carry some heavy vehicles.

The existing Manawatu River Bridge is a 180m-long, structural steel bridge over the Manawatu River, constructed in 1942. Like the Whirokino Trestle Bridge, it is narrow, but also at risk from liquefaction in an earthquake.

There is no shoulder for cyclists on the existing bridges. The existing walking and cycling track on the floodplain will be retained and the new bridges will provide a 1.2m-wide shoulder for cyclists.

The Whirokino Trestle Bridge requires ongoing maintenance to keep it functioning to full capacity. Recent investigations identified a preferred option for the replacement of both bridges on an alignment immediately to the west of the existing SH1. The project is now progressing through the implementation stage with the necessary statutory approvals secured. Land acquisition and design work is in progress.

COST

\$53.5-58 million.

FUNDING SOURCE

Implementation of this project is included in the National Land Transport Programme 2015-18.

DATES

It is anticipated construction will start in 2016/17, taking 24 months to complete.