



Taramakau Road/Rail Bridge



BENEFITS

This project will separate road and rail traffic and enable traffic to cross the bridge in both directions at the same time.

The project objectives are to:

- reduce travel delays
- improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists
- reduce maintenance costs associated with the existing bridge.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A new two-lane bridge will be constructed 30m downstream of the existing bridge to carry vehicles, with a separated off-road shared facility for pedestrians and cyclists.

The realigned road will include an overpass over the existing rail line south of the river.

The rail traffic will remain on the existing bridge, separating all modes of traffic, improving both safety and efficiency.

The project is located on SH6 approximately 15km south of Greymouth and is part of the section of SH6 forming the main link from Greymouth to Hokitika and Christchurch.

BACKGROUND

The existing bridge is a 222m-long, one-lane combined road/rail bridge constructed in the early 1880s. The preferred option is to construct a new 250m-long two-lane road bridge downstream of the existing structure, with improved approach alignments.

The existing bridge was recently fitted with a clip-on cycle lane to remove cyclists and pedestrians from the road/rail environment. A shared path will be provided on the new structure linking pedestrians and cyclists to the current facilities.

An initial investigation was completed in 2002 with a preferred option identified, but which did not proceed at that time. This option has been reconfirmed as a result of the recent work undertaken.

COST

\$15-25 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 late 2016, taking 24 months to complete.