

Submitter: Murray Anderson

We must build more bridge capacity

The proposed location is wrong. It is a disaster.

Highways are built for volume traffic and heavy traffic and when the need is there to increase that capacity it is usual to do so.

The success of a busy road can only be achieved by good access on and off that road.

It is all about Programming. The present standard is dreadful for the future needs.

The present corridor is not perfect, but it also has many good points to be retained as the Highway.

Recommendation to Council " That a quality 4 Lane Highway along with a 4 lane bridge be built in the very near future on the West St Archibald St corridor."

It is NZTA responsibility to carry out this work and to TOTALLY fund it.

Does Council not notice what is happening throughout NZ to improve transport efficiency.? Most of you will recall going into CH CH from any direction it was 2 lanes, now there are 4 lanes in all directions.

Some recent works.

The Southern Arterial Outlet to Rolleston \$180 million Johns Road, The Northern Out, Waimakariri 4 lane bridge has just been increased to 6 lanes in this last year.

The 4 lane highway from Rolleston to Ashburton is coming. I suggest it will be in steps and not just one bang as many believe. But it will come.

1. When traffic numbers demonstrate the need
2. Politics Council in 2006, engaged consultants to do a transport study of Urban Ashburton. Council did give a directive that it had a problem with local transport movements.

This is where it all went wrong. NZTA immediately picked up this, and from that moment the emphasis went on solving the local traffic issue.

NZTA have been laughing all the way to the bank since.

All towns and cities in NZ have through Highway.

All towns and cities have local traffic on their Highway. This became just a nonsense.

The Council became very in house working with consultants and NZTA on this process and released information that suited. This frustrated the Community who consider their views have not been considered. There been some improvement in the last 12 months.

The Bridge. Council is planning to divert highway traffic onto the ratepayer owned network, create a secondary highway but it will remain a local road.

This will travel through our prime residential area of town. It is not just Chalmers Avenue and it's 220 residential properties, 30 intersections, but it is also surrounded by a large residential catchment and its roading network including 5 schools, 5 early learning centres.

The total planned route is archaic

We must NOT have Ashburton become known as the town with a dreadful transport system This is transport planning at its worst The Ashburton community deserve better Ashburton ratepayers deserve better Transport operators deserve better I believe NZTA would like a highway through Ashburton that they can be proud of.

We must achieve an efficient, safe and sustainable network for all users.

Mr Mayor Council must answer these questions to the community, they have been waiting for 10 years.

1. Why are you diverting highway traffic through our prime residential part of town.?

2. Why are you spending a huge amount of ratepayers money when it is totally NZTA s responsibility ?

3. Why do you refuse to consider a designated corridor for a future third bridge ?

Even your consultant Mr Bill Rice of Opus International told your Council 10 years ago that it was not just about ONE bridge- another bridge had to be built in the future. Approximately 30- years following the building of the second bridge.

Last year following discussions with NZTA and your consultants you announced that they were very keen on the project as it will relieve congestion on the highway.

Council it is community interests that you are looking after. This new process?

We understand it is placing more emphasis on social and safety issues.

This must effect the new route that has always been residential community.

4. Where does Council intend to build the third bridge?

We see no financial commitment by NZTA to the bridge in there 10 year budget.

We see no time frame for building of the bridge in their 10 year plan How much finance has NZTA put into the project to date ?

Council plans to spend \$37 million on this project. This in my view is totally under estimated. We note on p.44 Auditors Report Audit believes it is unreasonable for Council to assume that the \$10.7 million will be allocated. I suggest that Council should not be assuming that NZTA will also come up with the money. To date that commitment has not been made.

I look forward to our new Council's commitment to forward planning, good planning.

Thank you Murray Anderson.