

Submission to Ashburton District Council On Long Term Plan re: location of second Ashburton bridge

I wish to submit my views on the location of Ashburton's second bridge.
I do wish to submit in person.

Proposed funding for a Chalmers Avenue bridge is fictional. The 20% ADC-funded and 51% NZTA-funded may be possible to get accepted but who is going to fund the other 29% now that the Provincial Growth Fund no longer exists?

In addition, I consider the proposed location of Chalmers Avenue for the second bridge is the **wrong** location and set out below are the main points of my case:

1. Taking heavy trucks and extra traffic (12,000+ daily) through a suburban area is very unwise making this route very unsafe for pedestrians, youngsters getting to schools and pre-schools (and their families). The ADC may think they can legislate making this route unavailable for heavy traffic but this will be ineffective ie the planned extension to Talley's just to the North of this area.

2. The large number of primary schools, early learning centres and Ashburton Intermediate School either on Chalmers Avenue/Bridge Street or just off will make transportation for the large number of families battling to get to and from schools and pre-schools very dangerous and will mean that school-aged children will not be able to either bike or walk themselves to school safely, which is quite ironic timing, with the push to get children more active and Healthy in New Zealand.

The two pedestrian crossings on Chalmers Avenue at Netherby Shops and Wellington Street would be grossly inadequate.

3. To make this route safe for foot traffic with require a huge amount of work, and at what cost.

For residents getting in and out of the 220+ houses along this route would be difficult and unsafe.

It has been suggested that the Chalmers Avenue bridge would only be for the Tinwald East and East Ashburton population. Building a bridge/route for just a part of the population of the town is ludicrous.

My preferred bridge site is **West Street**.

Two possible options to consider:

1. Following the line of West Street over the railway line and running a new highway directly adjacent to the current highway with the new bridge between the rail and existing bridges.

This is already a main highway therefore you should not have too much push back from home owners.

2. Straight along West Street, demolish Spraymarks building, with the bridge on the West side of the rail bridge then continuing down the green strip next to (but not including) Melcombe Street.

To avoid a bottle-neck before and after the new bridge, it would be necessary to four-lane the existing West Street highway. There is room to do this.

The land already purchased for the new proposed route through Tinwald can be sold and those funds put towards any land purchases necessary for a West Street bridge/route.


If a West Street route is chosen, NZTA would be obliged to fund this project 100%.

NO location is perfect but we consider one of the above West Street options above to be the best option.

We accept that this route will mean further delays to a new bridge which is sorely needed sooner rather than later but it is more important to get the bridge in the right place.

Also NZTA cannot sit on their hands and let Ashburton become a huge bottle neck in the middle of the south island, 90% of all goods going North or South passes through Ashburton

In conclusion, why would the Ashburton District Council consider building this bridge on Chalmers Avenue when the great majority of the town disagree on the location.


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Signed: Bob Mc Donald


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Date