

Dyers Pass Road Safety Improvements – Stage Two

What are you doing?

We're widening the road in areas and installing several hundred more metres of safety barriers along Dyers Pass Road between Sign of the Takahe and Governors Bay.

This work is tricky on a steep and narrow road like Dyers Pass Road.

There are a number of steps to work through before we can put the barriers into place. This includes trimming back rock slopes, building and installing concrete retaining walls to support the newly widened sections of road, pouring a new drainage channel and finally, installing the safety barriers. You can view more details about what this work will look like on our [project web page](#).

Why didn't you do this work during the previous phase?

Phase one construction was in line with the funding available in the previous Long Term Plan at the time.

How long will it take?

Approximately five to six months is needed to complete the work. We expect work to be completed in December 2022.

More information about this project can be found at ccc.govt.nz/dyerspassroad

Where are the safety barriers being installed?

We'll be working on several sites between Sign of the Takahe and Governors Bay.

Most of the work is on the city side, north of the Dyers Pass Road/Summit Road intersection.

One short site uphill of the horse trough, at 555 Dyers Pass Road on the Governor's Bay side will also have retaining walls and safety barriers installed. You can view the map of the work area on our [project webpage](#).

Why is it taking so long?

Installing safety barriers sounds like an easy task, but on a steep and narrow road like Dyers Pass Road it's a bit trickier.

There are a number of steps to work through before we can put the barriers into place. This includes trimming back rock, pouring a new drainage channel, widening sealed shoulders, building and installing concrete retaining walls to support the newly widened sections of road, and finally, installing the safety barriers.

We're working during the night using larger equipment, which cannot work while the road is open to traffic, to speed up progress and reduce disruption during the day when the road is busier.

How will it impact people travelling on Dyers Pass Road?

There will be two 'live sites' being worked on at a time during daytime work. To allow our team to safely carry out the work, temporary traffic lights will control traffic at the two sites. You can view a map on our [project web page](#).

If you can, we recommend you take alternative routes through the Lyttelton Tunnel or Gebbies Pass Road. **Otherwise delays of 20 minutes plus the usual travel time of 10 minutes between Governor's Bay and The sign of the Takahe should be expected.**

The speed limit will be reduced to 30km/h through the work areas. Please allow extra time for your journey if you chose to travel over Dyers Pass Road.

During the previous works we heard of some regular travellers finding the journey through the Lyttelton Tunnel not much longer, with some former Dyers Pass users continuing to go that way after the works finished.

We've also found that the journey times shown on Google Maps are pretty reliable and matched those on the electronic signs we used last time.

Can the road be opened to two lanes of traffic on weekends/public holidays or even overnight (if there are no closures that night)?

We'll be working closely with the contractor to minimise single lane closures during the work.

Excavation works in the road are done at night. Where the surface cannot be reinstated to comply with safe operating practices, a lane closure has to be left in place during the day. Unfortunately this can give the impression to those passing that there is traffic management in place with nothing happening.

Where possible we will work with the contractor to minimise daytime disruption.

What effect will the night closures have on response times for fire and emergency?

We have established communication and access procedures with emergency services dispatchers, so they can coordinate access through the site at any time of the day or night in the event of an emergency. We update key contacts with the emergency services periodically as the location of works or conditions change.

What kind of signage can I expect to see on the road ahead of the Dyers Pass Road night closures?

There are two types of signage we put in place to let you know about the night closures. This includes both advisory and temporary signage.

Advisory signage stays in place from before the beginning of the work till the end, while the temporary signage is set up and removed for when closures are deployed.




The key thing to know is that Dyers Pass Road will remain open until 7.30pm, even if some of the orange and black temporary signs are out before then. If you see these signs out before 7.30pm it

means the Traffic Management Team are in the process of setting out the signage for the night closure, which needs to happen before 7.30pm.

Temporary signs:

Setting up the traffic management for an overnight closure takes about an hour of preparation before the standard installation process is complete on both sides of Dyers Pass Road hill.

Please note that during our night closure traffic set-up process you will still be able to get through our site right up until our advertised closure time of 7.30pm, even if the temporary advanced warning signs have already been put out.

<p>Advanced warning signs</p>	<p>These temporary orange warning signs often go out just prior to the road closing as a part of the establishment process.</p>
	<p>'Road closed ahead' signs are put out just before the road closes at 7.30pm. This means that when the road does officially close at 7.30pm, all of the correct warnings and detours are already in place.</p>
	<p>After the 'road closed ahead' signs you will also see 'detour ahead' signs, to direct people towards the best route to take once the road closure is in place.</p> <p>On the city side these are set up before the Sign of the Takahe, which reroutes cars back down the hill via Hackthorne Road, and on the Governors Bay side they will be on Main Road rerouting cars along Governors Bay Road.</p>
	<p>Cones will be set up at closure points to prevent access to the closed section of road. There will also be cones on the road ahead of the closure point to slow down approaching vehicles to indicate they are getting close to the closure.</p>
<p>Road closed sign</p>	<p>If you travel up Dyers Pass Road right on 7.30pm, the signage you will see telling you that the road is now officially closed is this 'Road Closed' sign. If the road closure sign has been deployed you cannot proceed past the sign as the road has been officially closed.</p>
	<p>This sign will be set up at road closure points. On the city side the road closure will be in place just beyond the first gravel carpark on Dyers Pass Road that gives access to Victoria Park via the Harry Ell track (the one with the fire danger board), allowing cars a place to turn around if necessary.</p> <p>The second closure point will be on Victoria Park Road, before the intersection with Dyers Pass Road. The third closure point will be near Summit Road, meaning that motorists travelling uphill from Governors Bay can still access Summit Road.</p>

Advisory signage signs:

Electronic message boards



During the project there will be Electronic message boards in place on either side of Dyers Pass Road to keep the public informed of the road status. These can be updated to advise of any traffic changes (for example, if there are no night works due to wet weather.) The signs may also be used if there is a road closure due to an unforeseen event such as a slip or severe weather that requires the road to be closed.

To reduce confusion caused with the temporary traffic signage, we've been putting additional messaging on our electronic messaging boards to let motorists know that the road will be open until 7.30pm. As soon as the road is closed at 7.30pm we change these boards to say:

**DYERS PASS
ROAD
CLOSED**

**OPENING
AT
6:00AM**

Closure advisory signs

**DYERS PASS RD
CLOSED
BETWEEN SUMMIT RD
& 222 DYERS PASS RD
SUN - FRI - 1930 TO 0600
FOR INFO: 03 341 4370**

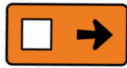
**VICTORIA PARK RD
CLOSED
BETWEEN HERE &
DYERS PASS ROAD
SUN - FRI - 1930 TO 0600
FOR INFO: 03 341 4370**

Closure advisory signs are in place at key locations. On the city side this includes Hackthorne Road, Cashmere Road, Colombo Street, Centaurus Road, Barrington Street.

On the Governors Bay side: Main Road, a couple on Dyers Pass Road (near the Sign of the Kiwi) and Simeon Quay, near the Lyttelton tunnel.

There are also closure advisory signs on Victoria Park Road.

Detour route signs



These signs indicate the advised detour route and will be left in place throughout works to save time when establishing the nightly closure signs. These signs help road users to find their way along the detour route and are also at key turning points.

There were significant delays during the first stage. Have you made any changes to improve things?

We learnt a few tough lessons during the previous stage and have made some changes to minimise disruption where possible.

This time around we're going to start work in July, outside of the busy summer season, so there's less cyclists on the road, and we will only have two sites live at a time, which will generally be shorter in length. This means there won't be numerous sets of traffic signals and work sites.

The team will use a set of smart traffic signals that will be monitored by the Council's Real-time Traffic Operations Team, and to help people decide which route to take, we will have electronic travel time boards installed at key locations.

Can café's and businesses still be accessed on Dyers Pass Road?

During the project you will still be able to visit the cafés and businesses on and around Dyers Pass Road as usual during their normal business hours. During the overnight closures you will need to access businesses on the opposite side of Dyers Pass Road using the Lyttelton tunnel or Gebbies Pass.

Can you stop cyclists from using the road during the work?

Dyers Pass Road is a popular cycle route, not only for people on road bikes wanting to access sections of the Port Hills, but also for people on mountain bikes getting onto trails in the Christchurch Adventure Park. We will have a 30km/h speed limit in place through our work sites, with traffic lights in place that account for cycles in the signal phase.

We will continue to allow cyclists to use this road throughout stage two of works.

Why are you working at two sites at a time?

During stage one we had a much larger quantity of work and had to work across multiple work sites at a time, which was a cause of frustration for people driving Dyers Pass Road. This was an effort to balance construction productivity with public access and safety. During stage two we will reduce the number of live sites we are working on to only two at a time, to maintain productivity while also keeping the public moving.

Why is there no work happening?

Often sites can be empty during the day if there is not enough space to work with large machinery with the lane of traffic going past, or while we wait for concrete to cure. Wherever possible, we will be undertaking the most disruptive work during overnight closures to avoid impacting on daytime traffic.

Why is there no traffic coming from either direction? Are the lights working?

It's normal to experience a bit of a delay in seeing oncoming traffic at the lights, but you shouldn't normally expect to be waiting for much more than 10 minutes. We understand it is very frustrating when these systems don't work, and we will provide a dedicated 24-hour phone number on the traffic lights that you can call if you experience any issues. Please call Higgins Construction on 027 227 5849.

The smart signals can adapt to changing conditions. They can also be checked or adjusted by the Council's Traffic Operation Team in some instances and organise response to faults if needed. This is just as they would for other traffic signals in the city.

What if the traffic light doesn't change after 10 minutes?

If you have been waiting at the lights for more than 10 minutes please call our dedicated 24-hour phone number 027 227 5849. We appreciate your patience.

Are you prioritising cyclists at lights?

At traffic stops on the city side of Dyers Pass we're going to be using 'smart signals', which are far more responsive than regular temporary traffic lights - especially for people on bikes. These signals include advanced radar cycle detection and a push button on the uphill direction, which means that when a cycle is detected the signal will trigger a cycle phase only when it's needed allowing more time for cyclists to clear the site.

This feature will only be activated if a cycle is detected and cyclists are let through at the safest time in the uphill phase.

In the downhill direction cyclists generally travel near the 30km/hr limit and can safely travel with vehicles as they would in a shared lane such as that on Colombo Street around Cashel Street.

Is anyone monitoring traffic at peak times?

The Christchurch City Council's Real-time Traffic Operations Team is able to use cameras and remote monitoring via the new smart traffic signals to keep an eye on traffic flows when performance is outside pre-set limits. We will also be able to recommend which route people should take at peak times, with electronic travel time VMS boards installed at key locations.

What are you doing to keep the public informed during the upcoming works?

We're holding a drop-in session for the community to meet the team and to find out more about the work.

When: Thursday 7 July between 3.30pm and 6pm

Where: Governors Bay Community Centre

The best way to keep updated about traffic changes is to sign up for our email newsletters at ccc.govt.nz/dyerspassroad

Regular updates about the work will be sent to subscribers.

We will use electronic travel time boards at key locations to help people decide which route to take. We will also use radio and newspaper advertising to inform the wider public where needed.

Why don't you redirect traffic along Victoria Park access road, to avoid any work sites on the lower southern end of Dyers Pass Road?

The Victoria Park access is not a legal road so we cannot use it to detour traffic. The access road is also not designed or suitable for a high volume of traffic.

Since you're already widening the road, why don't you add a cycle lane?

This is a safety project to install safety barriers at high-risk locations and reduce the risk of injury when vehicles veer off the road. There is currently not enough room on the road to provide cycle lanes on Dyers Pass Road. To create enough space for an uphill cycle lane, more of the rock cliff on the inside of the road would need to be removed which would be very expensive and have a big environmental impact. The project does widen the sealed shoulder of Dyers Pass Road to allow more space for everyone on the road.

Why can't you use stop/go people working on site all day instead of traffic lights?

Dyers Pass Road is narrow and there are only certain areas we can safely have manual stop/go staff working. We have allowed for manual stop/go should it be needed occasionally in certain circumstances.

Why is this work needed?

There have been recognised safety issues on Dyers Pass Road for years. The safety barriers and road widening will improve safety by reducing the risk when driving or cycling mistakes might have resulted in a vehicle leaving the road. Once we have finished this work there will be safety barriers on around 75 per cent of Dyers Pass Road.

How much will it cost?

The phase two safety improvements have a budgeted cost around \$3.5 million.