



Media release
Thursday 16 June 2016

Rail Trail link to be developed

Construction of an important off road link for the Little River Rail Trail south of Lincoln is expected to begin late this year and be completed this summer. It will also form part of the wider walking and cycling network being developed for Lincoln residents in the area.

The 45km trail runs from Shands Road in Hornby, via Prebbleton, Lincoln, Greenpark, Motukarara, Kaituna, Birdlings Flat, Catons Bay to Little River. The trail is the initiative of the Christchurch-Little River Rail Trail Trust and has included Ngai Tahu and the Wairewa Runanga, the Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council all cooperating in its development and construction through its various stages from Christchurch to Little River.

The new pathway south of Lincoln will be constructed by Selwyn District Council on behalf of the Trust. This will create a link from the new esplanade reserves in the Liffey Springs subdivision through to the Lincoln Stormwater Wetland off Ellesmere Road and then south to Moirs Lane. The route will run alongside the L2 river and includes the construction of a new cyclist and pedestrian bridge across the L2 from the esplanade reserve beside Liffey Springs Drive.

The pathway will avoid cyclists having to use a busy section of road along Edward Street and Ellesmere Road south to where the Rail Trail currently connects to River Road. The new link can be constructed as a result of agreements between the Council and local land owners being negotiated to establish pathways alongside the river. Further pathways in the surrounding area are planned as new subdivisions are developed over time and these new pathways could also be used by the Rail Trail cyclists and local residents.

"The new connecting path will offer a safe off-road route for cyclists and will be an attractive part of the Rail Trail, taking people alongside the L2 river and the Lincoln stormwater wetland. It is a great example of how the Trust, local Councillors and Council staff and key local land owners have all worked together to create an important off road section of the Rail Trail," says Andrew Mazey, Selwyn District Council's Asset Manager Transportation.

"The trustees of the Christchurch Little River Rail Trail Trust are very pleased with the progress Selwyn District Council has made to procure the last land access agreement required to create a grade 2 path from Christchurch to Little River," says Don Babe, the Chair of the Christchurch Little River Rail Trail Trust.

"When the path is completed through this area the entire length of the trail will either be off road or on very quiet country roads, safe for riders aged from 8 to 80 years."

Mr Babe says the completely flat trail offers unique opportunities to pass through working farms, nature reserves and alongside and across Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. "It is pleasing to see this access made safer for all users by the negotiation of this land access agreement."

"Having the trail complete will mean the Trust can concentrate on promotional work which is

likely to bring economic gains to the areas it passes through, including the towns of Prebbleton and Lincoln," he adds.

Selwyn District Council has also recently purchased a strategic area of land in Lincoln near the new Rail Trail path. The land is next to Ellesmere Road and it allows the stormwater and drainage network to continue to be upgraded to cater for Lincoln's current and future growth.

The Council developed an integrated stormwater management plan in 2011 that included the construction of a 17 hectare wetland on Ellesmere Road to treat stormwater from parts of the town including the new subdivisions in the north east of Lincoln. To continue these works, the culvert under the junction of Edward Street and Ellesmere Road will be upgraded to carry a 50 year stormwater event and the downstream channel will be upgraded to cater for larger flows and allow spring water and stormwater to be separated.

Photo attached: *The new link to be developed will allow a bridge to be put across the L2 River (pictured) and a new cycle path to be created following the river downstream south of Lincoln, through the stormwater wetlands, and connecting to the Rail Trail via Moirs Lane.*

Ends

For media enquiries, please contact:

Allanah Jarman
Selwyn District Council
03 347 2807
allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz