

Week of 19th February 2018

Thank you to all those affected by the crane removal works overnight on 12/13th. Everything went smoothly from our end and we hope no one's sleep was disrupted too much.

The recent weather continues to create challenges for us. The forecasts for this week suggest that those challenges are not over yet.

We are running a little behind the ideal programme for the Western Abutment but hope to have this abutment beam cast early this week. The Eastern Abutment is ready to receive the bridge bearing strip and beams next weekend. We will be spending some time on the eastern side this week ensuring that the access is ready for the crane on Friday and beams on Saturday and Sunday.

Beam placement this weekend

There is a planned rail shutdown for this weekend (24/25th February) during which we are planning to place the bridge beams that carry the roadway. The programme is:

Friday 23rd

- A 400 tonne mobile crane will be brought onto the site between 9am and 3pm. This is a self-driving vehicle, so we don't have any issues with height restrictions at the level crossing. The crane needs support trucks to set it up. We can expect up to six flat deck trucks to accompany the crane over the hours of 8am to 4pm on Friday, to deliver the various support pads and the counterweight unit;

- The crane will be set up just behind the Eastern Abutment, allowing it to unload the beam trucks and place the bridge beams directly into position;
- The bridge beams will be loaded onto trucks at the yard in Otara.

Saturday 24th

- The trucks carrying the beams will travel early Saturday morning to a staging location on Shore Road where they will wait until they are called into the site;
- The trucks will then travel up Ayr Street, turn left onto Parnell Road, and left into Sarawia Street. They will then come across the rail crossing heading down into Laxon Terrace, and then reverse into site to be unloaded;



Example of the transporter to be used for the delivery of the beams

- We are hoping to take delivery of six of the eight beams on Saturday. Their arrival will be spaced at about 90 minute intervals. The first delivery should be coming into the site from around 6am;
- Each truckload measures up to 32 metres long with the heaviest beam weighing 37 tonnes. The delivery involves two pilot vehicle drivers, the truck driver and a 'jinker' driver (these beams are so long that a 'jinker' trailer attached under the back of the load means a second driver can independently steer that end - this is critical to ease around the tight corners on route to the site);
- Traffic management will be in place on Parnell Road, Sarawia Street and Laxon Terrace. **Please note, the beam delivery will mean Sarawia Street and Laxon Terrace are effectively blocked for 10-15 minutes at a time while the truck is manoeuvred into the site.**

Sunday 25th

- The remaining beams will be delivered on Sunday morning from

6am, using the same route and method as on Saturday. Hopefully all of the beams will be in place by mid-to-late morning. The beams will have a handrail installed along the edge to protect the workers who will be working on the bridge for the next few weeks. These temporary handrails will be replaced with the permanent concrete barriers during the Easter rail shutdown.

- Once the beams are installed, we will start to infill the sections between the beams with concrete. This will involve 2-3 concrete trucks and a concrete pump coming onto the site on Sunday.

Risk to programme

High winds and heavy rain are problematic for all construction works, This is especially the case with large crane operations. This may mean we have to cancel some or all of the beam lifts over the weekend if the weather is unsuitable.

We will leave a decision on this until the last possible moment, but will try and give everyone as much warning as possible if this situation arises.

The week ahead - Monday 19th–Saturday 24th

In preparation for the beam delivery and installation, we will continue to have various trucks and other vehicles moving in and out of both the Sarawia Street and the Cowie Street site entrances. These will include:

COWIE STREET

- Concrete block deliveries each day;
- Aggregate delivery throughout the week;
- Concrete deliveries on Wednesday and Thursday;
- Reinforcing Deliveries.

SARAWIA STREET & LAXON TERRACE

- Aggregate deliveries each day;
- Concrete deliveries each day;
- Soil removal Monday and Tuesday;
- Minor works up and down the eastern side of the site to ensure the access road is suitable and prepared properly for the bridge beam delivery;
- Crane delivery on Friday.



Bridge Beams being lifted out of the mould at the precast yard in Otara.