



Bridge to Better – update

Bridge to Better focuses on upgrading our ageing piped infrastructure to enable more people to live in the city centre, create more transport choice and develop vibrant and appealing public spaces that will encourage visitors.

While construction isn't until 2026/2027, we will be working with you at each stage of the project.

During the concept design stages, the team will need to undertake early investigation work to build a more complete picture of what is below the surface on Bridge Street. This work in the New Year will include digging test pits in the road and footpath as well as other surveying works.

We will notify affected businesses of these works in advance and work with you to minimise disruptions wherever possible. We appreciate your patience while we take this necessary step.

What does better look like?

Early engagement is underway with affected businesses, local iwi and the wider community.

A number of helpful themes have emerged from early engagement with businesses including:

Unique Character

Businesses have voiced a desire to better showcase Bridge Street's distinctive character and creative pulse. The streetscape redesign is seen as an opportunity to more effectively highlight these unique attributes and foster a stronger destination appeal.

Vehicle Access

Parking and vehicle access are key considerations for Bridge Street businesses. There is wide support for improvements to accommodate transport choices. Diverse views on parking present a challenge in striking the right balance, but there's a consensus that finding a way to balance competing demands is crucial for the future.

Accessibility

Accessibility for an ageing population and those with limited mobility is a common area of interest. Inclusive transport choices and streetscape design are important in creating an outcome that supports accessibility for all.

Safety

Recent reports indicate a rise in anti-social behaviour and safety concerns across the city, with certain locations emerging as hotspots. There is an opportunity to make the area safer through good design and increased use of the streets.

Public Amenity

Proposals from businesses suggest strong support for beautification and enhancement of public spaces. Ideas range from outdoor seating expansions to night markets, with an underpinning theme of establishing activity-rich, flexible community spaces.

Attractiveness

There is strong support for revitalising the city to foster a vibrant and activity-filled CBD that supports businesses.

There is widespread concern about the decline in vibrancy within the inner-city and a desire to create more attractive features to encourage people to live, work and play in the city.

Approach

We've heard from businesses about the importance of good communication, ongoing engagement and impact mitigation strategies to minimise disruption resulting from construction. Businesses care about the future of the city, are constructive and wanting to support revitalisation efforts but are understandably nervous about disruption to trade.

Got more to say? We're keen to hear what better looks like for you.

For more information or to make suggestions, head to shape.nelson.govt.nz/bridge-better

Or email bridgetobetter@ncc.govt.nz to arrange a conversation with one of the team.



Bridge
to Better

Nelson
City Council

Te Kaunihera o
Whakatū