

Overview



Cambridge Connections is the transport plan Waipā District Council is currently developing, to guide our town's transport network over the coming 30 years.

Cambridge and the Waipā District is experiencing unprecedented growth. For many local residents, Cambridge will more than double in their lifetime: projections show that by 2055, the population will have grown to 33,000.

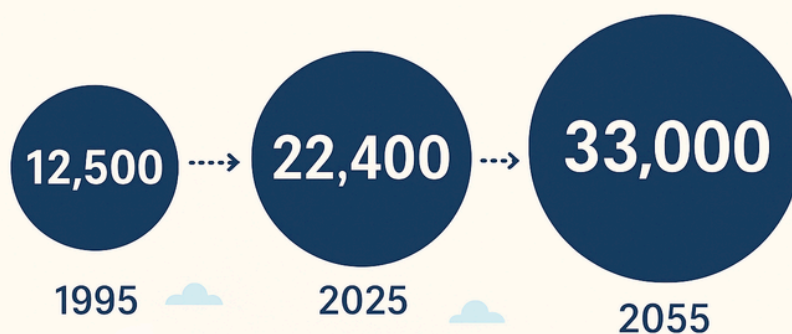
Transport infrastructure is vital to planning for growth – it affects all the ways people and goods move around the region, including roads, footpaths, cycleways, public transport, parking, and the connections between them.

Transport deeply influences how we live and experience our town. There is no doubt that Cambridge in 30 years' time will be very different from Cambridge today. With a long-term view and a clear understanding of what's important to us, we can ensure Cambridge continues to be a great place to live for future generations.

If we don't plan well, we risk congested roads and a town that is difficult to get around. But with careful planning we can:

- choose what forms of transport we use
- prioritise a climate resilient future
- ensure public spaces are centred around people
- reduce traffic congestion
- enhance the town centre so businesses and people can thrive.

CAMBRIDGE POPULATION GROWTH



Have your say

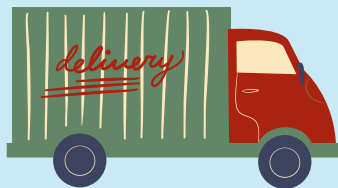
As we develop this plan, we're committed to being transparent about our process and reflecting the priorities identified by our community.

Join the Ideas Forum

Your ideas are valuable and we want to hear them! If you have thoughts, views or a vision for transport in Cambridge and Waipā, join the online Ideas Forum. Join now to get info and updates:

<https://haveyoursay.waipadc.govt.nz/cambridge-connections>

The first online activities will go live on 15 October. We'll be asking for feedback on:



- **what kind of town we want Cambridge to be for future generations**
- **transport options so we can achieve those aspirations.**

The Community Reference Group

As well as the Ideas Forum, we've put the Community Reference Group together with 15 local representatives who reflect a diverse mix of perspectives, expertise, ages and life stages. They will meet regularly throughout the project, to December 2026. Along with the Ideas Forum, the Reference Group will inform the transport plan and decisions made by Elected Members.



Why Cambridge Connections?

There are two key reasons why we need to develop a transport plan that will serve our community now and into the future:

1: We need to plan for growth

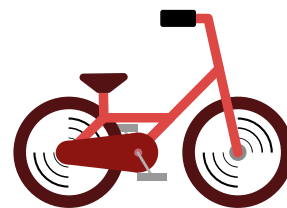
The government has designated Waipā as a Tier One growth district – this means we're required by central government to zone for 30 years' of housing demand and infrastructure to enable 'sufficient development capacity to meet the different needs of people and communities', according to the Ministry for the Environment.

In other words, we can't choose whether Cambridge and Waipā will grow. However, effective planning will ensure we can transform from a small town into a vibrant urban centre, in a way that reflects our values as a community.

In collaboration with central government's growth strategy, the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA/Waka Kotahi) also has a 30-year plan for transport called *Arataki*. It states that 'the transport sector needs to focus less on the physical movement of people and goods (mobility), and more on safe, sustainable access and connectivity for all'. *Arataki* outlines the following transport priorities:

- adapt to climate change and improve resilience
- better integrate transport and land use in our largest cities, and provide a wider range of options including walking, cycling, and public transport in smaller towns and cities
- improve access to transport for rural communities
- move freight more efficiently and safely
- maximise the benefits of technology, data, and innovation.

The Ideas Forum and Community Reference Group will help the Council shape its transport priorities to reflect our community's aspirations for Cambridge and the District – both now and into the future.



2. We need funding for transport infrastructure

We need to plan for effective transport into the future, but crucially, we also need to be able to fund it. That is why we need to make a business case to NZTA. In line with its 30-year plan, NZTA allocates funding on a three-year cycle:

0-3 years: short term priorities

3-10+ years: medium term priorities

10-30 years: long term priorities.



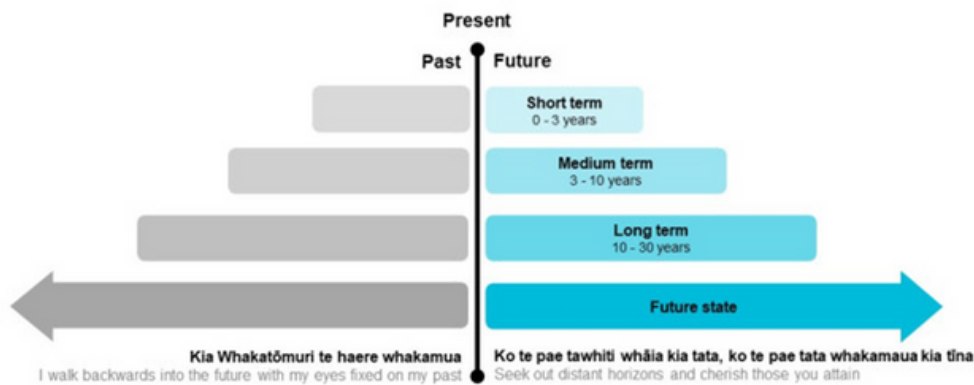
Cambridge Connections will enable us to seek funding from NZTA, based on the recommendations the Council develops over the next 16 months – including:

- the use of existing bridges
- possible locations for a new bridge and connecting roads in the future
- parking
- improving public transport
- upgrading and making the most of current infrastructure (such as intersections)
- new roads and cycleways.

The plan is due to be completed in late 2026 and approved by Elected Members. This will inform the business case that will go to NZTA.

The next funding round from NZTA will be allocated in 2027. Providing funding is approved, short-term recommendations could then start to be implemented. That is why we are developing short, medium and long-term recommendations

As we think about our priorities, we need to consider both what transport needs can be implemented straight away (within three years), but also, what our town and transport will look like in 30 years' time.



Graphic from Arataki - NZTA's 30 year transport plan

Next steps:

The first step NZTA requires is to define what the key transport challenges are in our district – for short, medium and long-term planning. Once we understand our priorities and aspirations for the future, we can define the challenges we need to address. Input from the Ideas Forum and Reference Group will help Elected Members define these challenges.

Further reading:

These documents will be useful over the next 16 months, as we inform Cambridge Connections together:

- **Ahu Ake Waipā Community Spatial Plan**
- **Arataki: NZTA 30 Year Plan**
- **Arataki Regional direction | Waikato**
- **Programme business case phase | NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi**
- **NZTA Strategic Context**

