



**UPGRADE:** The Pekatahi Bridge will be re-decked and its railway lines removed in a \$5 million upgrade planned for next summer.

File photo C6067-05

## Bridge upgrade detail

NZTA says existing steel girders on the Pekatahi Bridge are in “good” condition and the hardwood sleepers are “okay”, but the timber deck has deteriorated, requiring regular replacement.

NZTA plans to close the bridge for three months over the summer of 2016-17 to minimise disruption to schools.

Railway lines will be removed from the deck to make it safer and to allow

for an increase in speed from 30kmh to 50-plus kmh, and the traffic lights will be upgraded.

The bridge will be upgraded to carry high productivity motor vehicles (those weighing more than 40-tonne) to improve freight efficiency.

Subject to tender pricing, the bridge deck may be widened by 500mm to accommodate wider vehicles.

Full replacement of the bridge is planned for 2035.