

9 May 2016

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Dear Charlie

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 6 April 2016 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982. On 12 April 2016 you clarified that your request applied to the northern Motorway from the Waimakariri district to Christchurch.

**'I would like to know how much it cost to put in the new electronic speed signs on the Northern Motorway'**

Total cost \$50,300.

**'I would also like to know if this has improved traffic volumes'**

The reason for using the signs is to improve traffic flow and we are not aware (and would not expect) them to have any effect on traffic volumes. The variable speed limits on the Northern Motorway operate during the morning peak and reduce vehicle speeds to 60km/h or 70km/h from Ohoka Road to Belfast. The aim of the limits is to reduce the breakdown in traffic flows, when vehicles brake as they enter Belfast causing a 'slowing' ripple effect through the traffic. The implementation of these variable speed limits has reduced the duration of traffic delays. The onset of the flow breakdown is now later and the recovery is quicker. The traffic volumes change on a daily basis depending on the travel demands of people using the corridor.

Yours sincerely



**Ian Duncan**  
Southern Business Unit Manager  
For Chief Executive