

Cycle & Walkways on the Harbour Bridge

Viewfinder Research - November 2007



Method & Objectives

Objectives:

- Assess support in Auckland for cycle/walkways over the Harbour Bridge
- Find out what Aucklanders see as the key benefit

Method:

- Y&R Viewfinder on-line survey of Aucklanders
- N = 300 People throughout Auckland
 - North Shore City n = 82
 - Waitakere City n = 48
 - Auckland City n = 112
 - Manukau City n = 58
- Margin of error +/- 5.7 percentage points
- Conducted in November 2007

Support for cycle & walkways

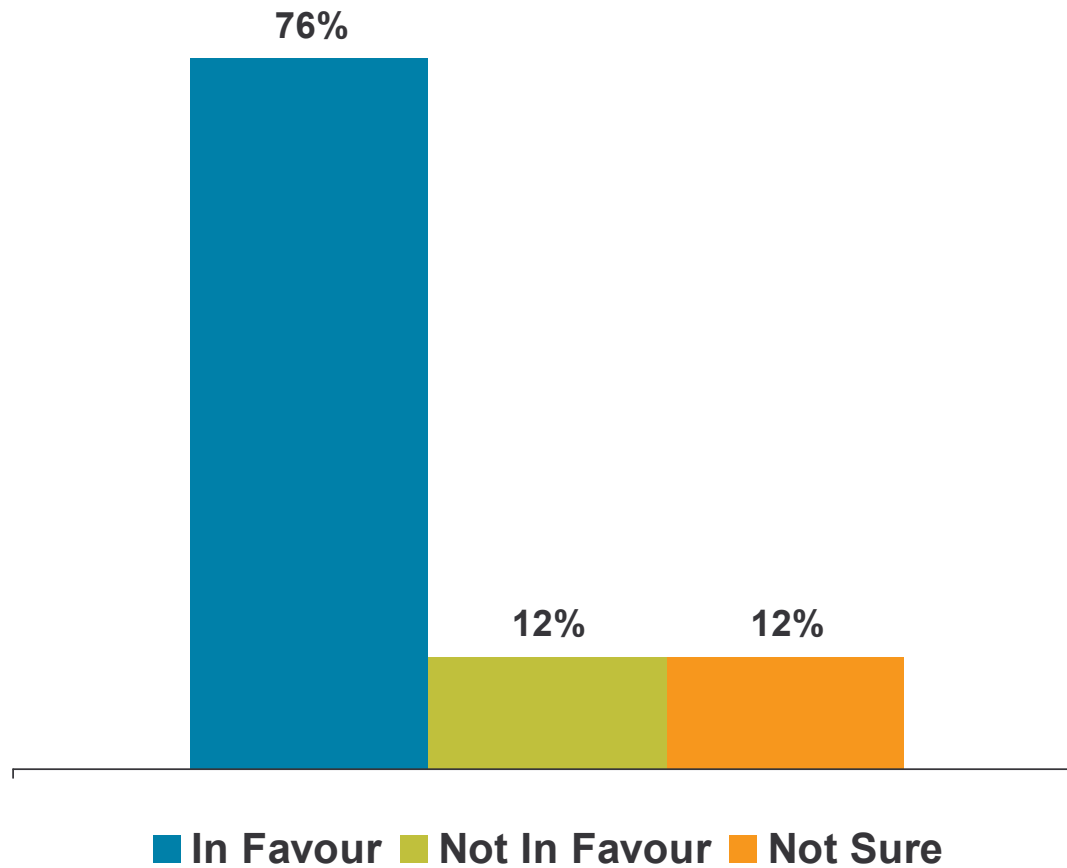
You may or may not know that Transit New Zealand have recently announced they will be undertaking substantial strengthening work on the clip-on lanes on Auckland's Harbour Bridge.

As part of this programme, they have the ability to add two extensions on each side of the bridge. One would be a cycle way (on the western side) and the other a walkway (on the sea side). They would be 2.5m wide each.

This would give Aucklanders and tourists the ability to cycle or walk across the bridge at any time.

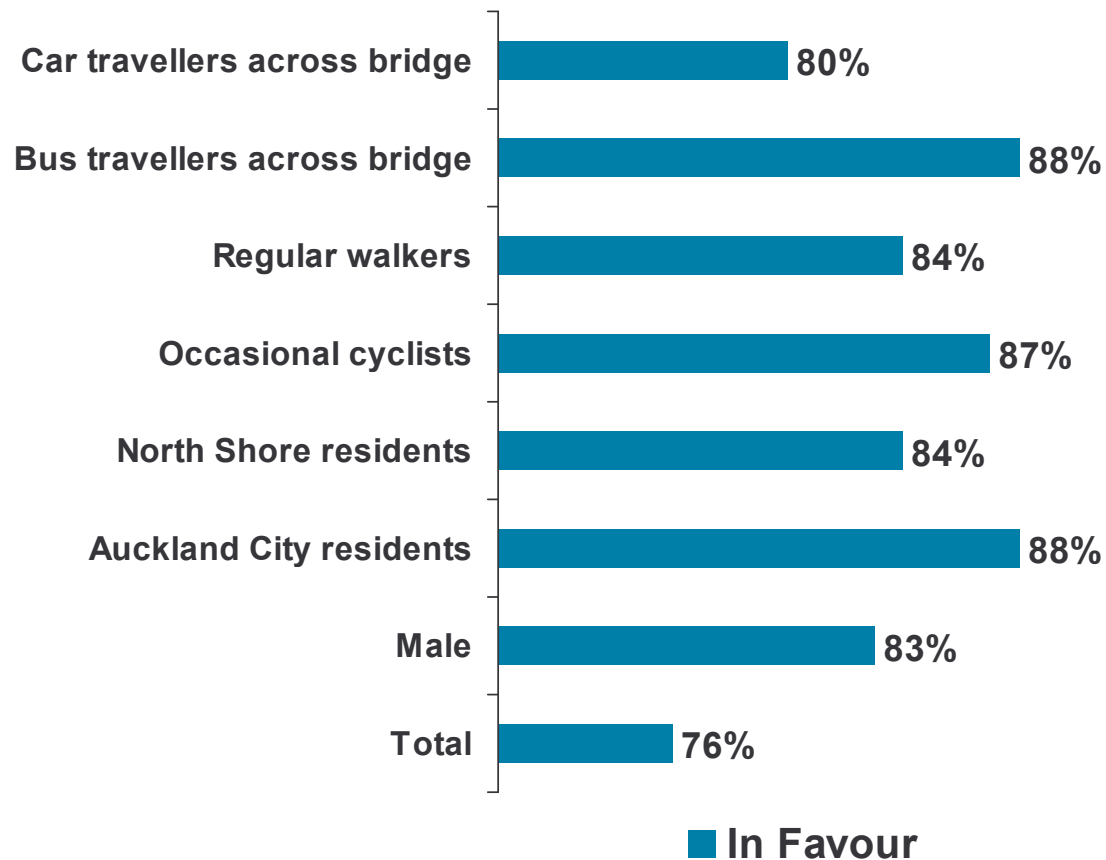
Strong support for cycle and walkway crossings

Overall, are you in favour, or not in favour, of people being able to walk or cycle across the Harbour Bridge?



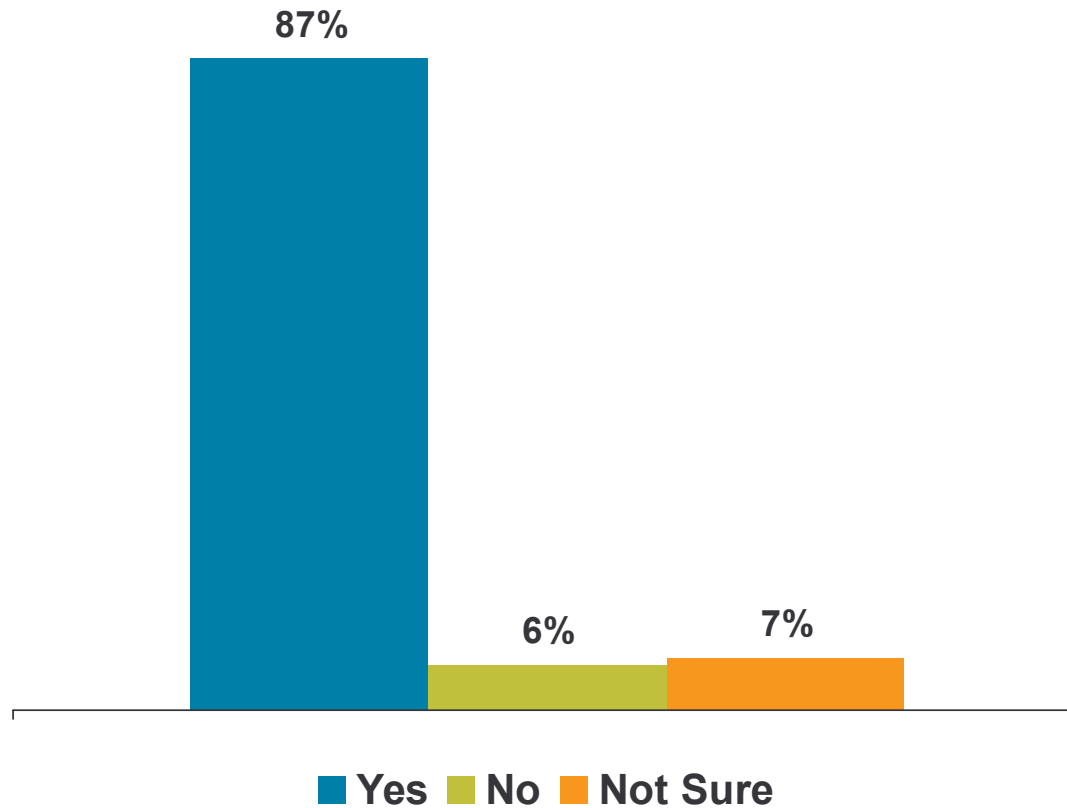
Strongest support among people using public transport to cross bridge and people living in Auckland City

Overall, are you in favour, or not in favour, of people being able to walk or cycle across the Harbour Bridge?



Even if not in favour of the crossing, most people see some benefits in provision for walking or cycling across bridge

Do you think there will be any benefits to people being able to walk/cycle over the Harbour Bridge?



Spontaneous benefits mentioned

"exercise, adds to the scenic attraction"

"walking the bridge would be fun and also could possibly reduce vehicle traffic on it"

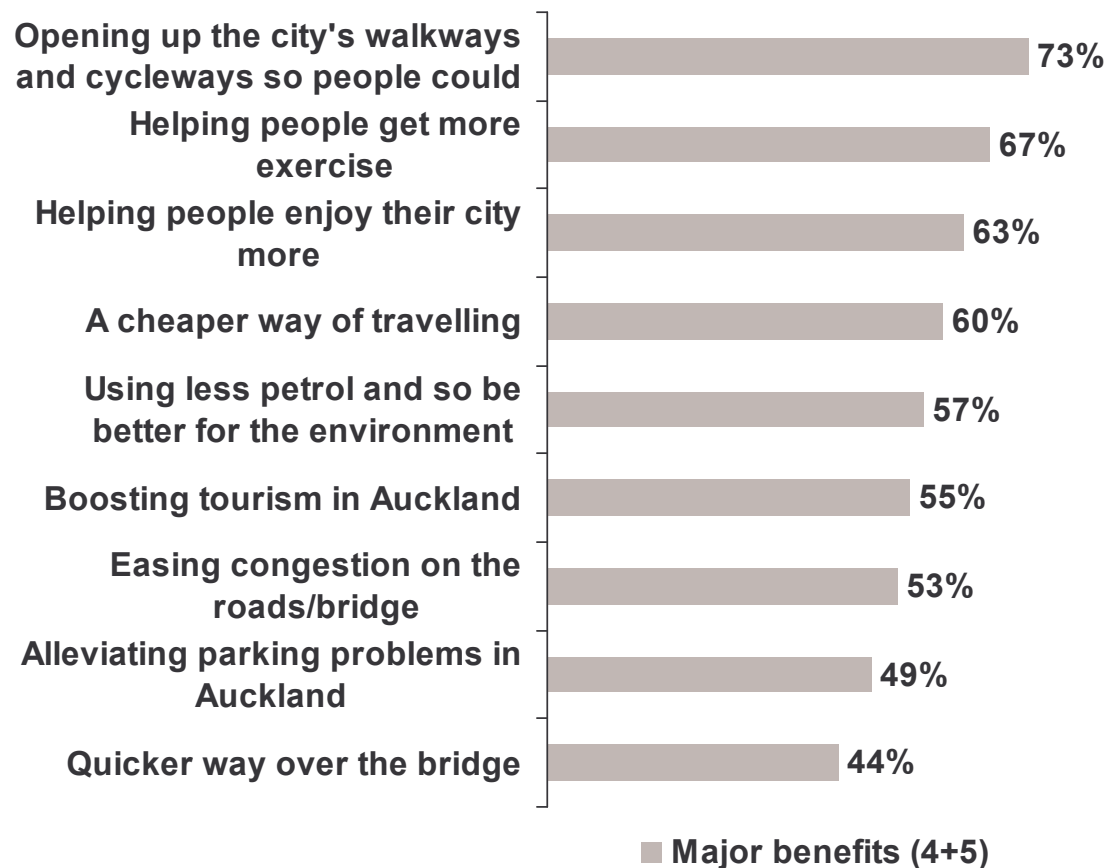
"it's got a beautiful view and I'm sure a lot of people would want to experience that"

"hopefully less traffic and congestion"

The main benefit is helping people to enjoy the city in a healthy way, rather than solving transport issues

Here's some things other people think would be beneficial.

Can you rate each one from 1 to 5, where 1 = *minor benefit* and 5 = *major benefit*



People who weren't in favour thought it would be dangerous and disrupt traffic

"Cycling is too dangerous due to the wind conditions. You're inviting trouble if you allow foot traffic onto the bridge – eg: if police were needed they would have to close a lane to get vehicles to the scene quickly"

"How do they get to the bridge in the first place? Bikes aren't allowed on motorways"

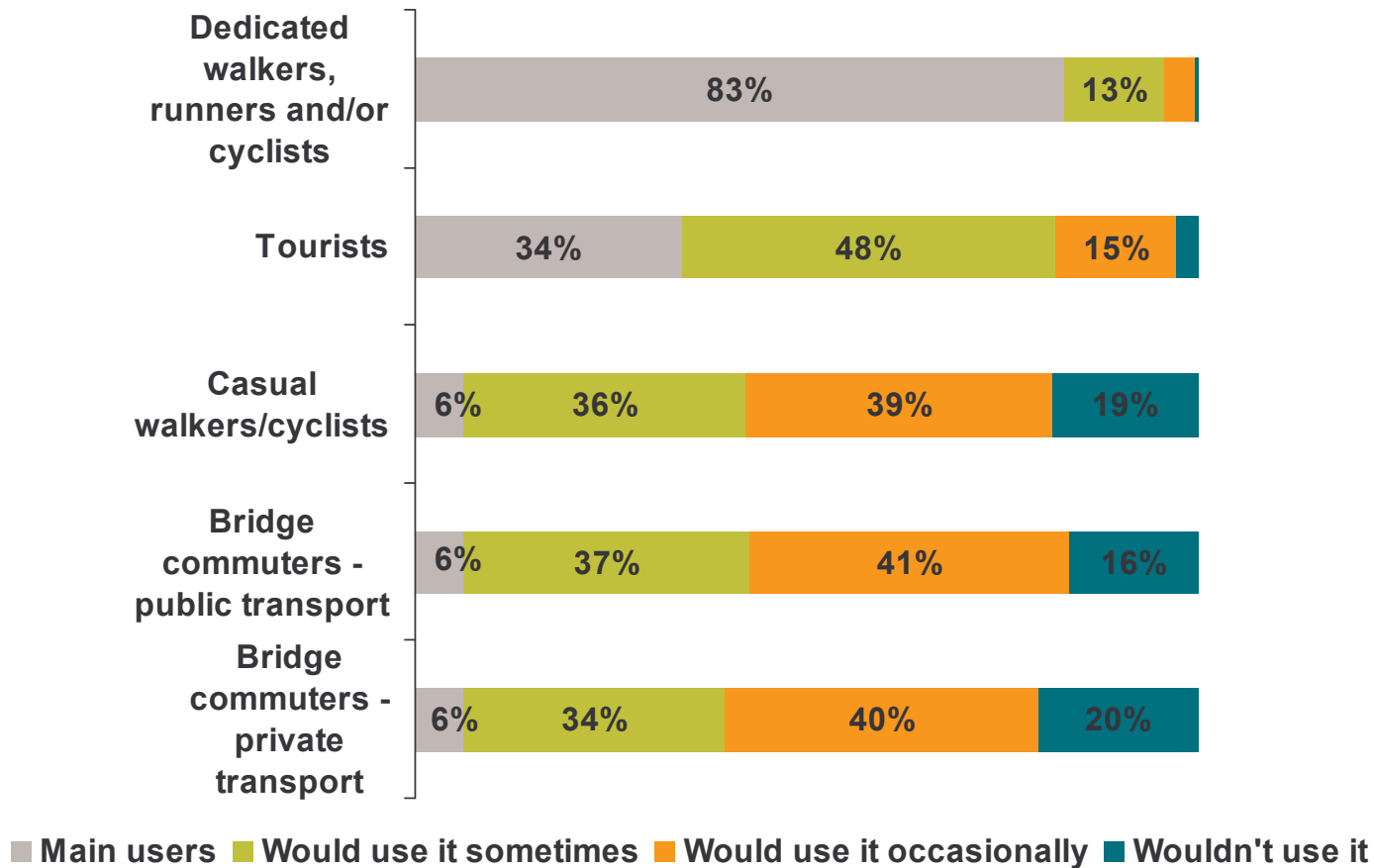
"Too risky for idiots that want to do silly things on the bridge (jumping off, running across motorway, graffiti).

"Too busy, too dangerous"

Main uses for the walkway

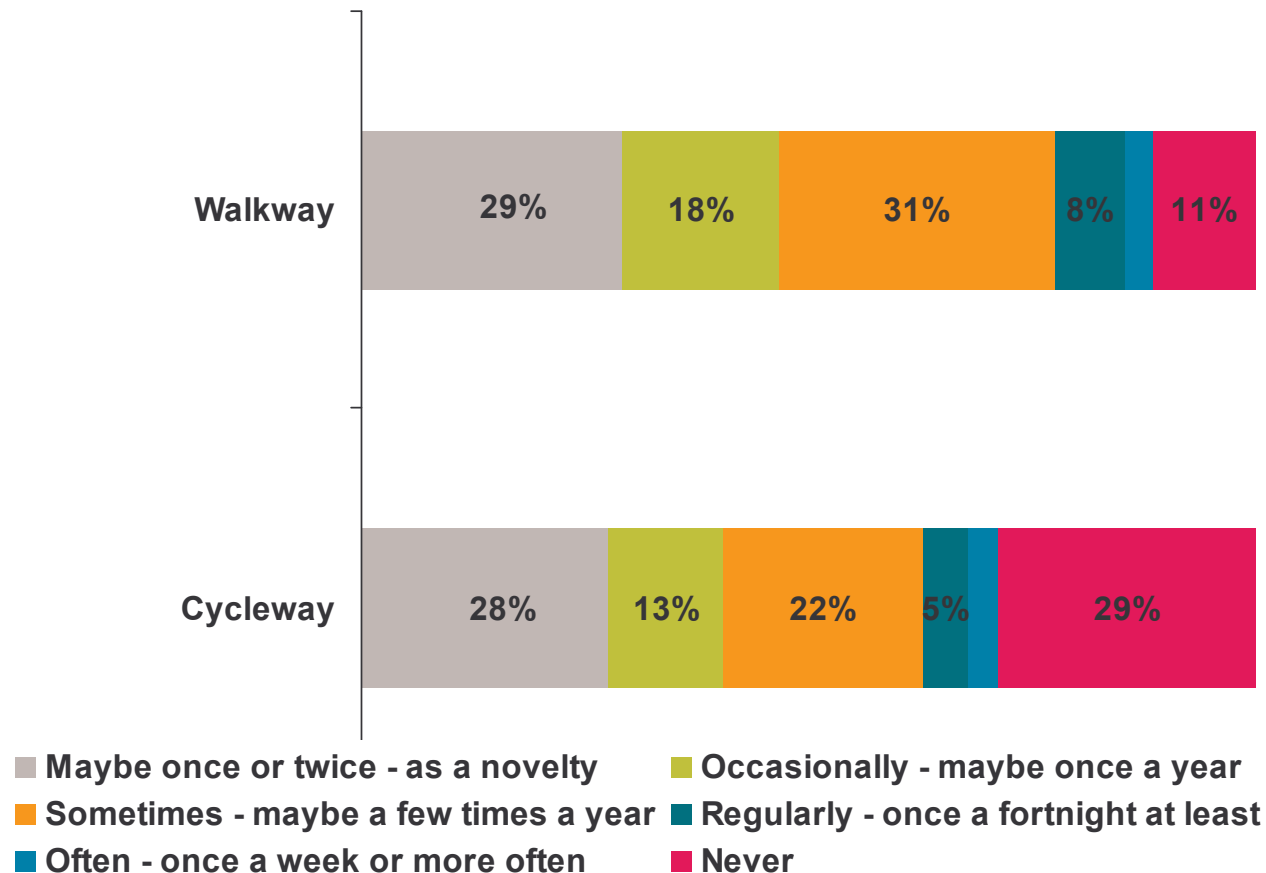
Main use of the walk/cycle ways are thought to be for recreation and exercise, rather than commuting

Who do you think would use the proposed cycle/walkway across the Harbour Bridge?



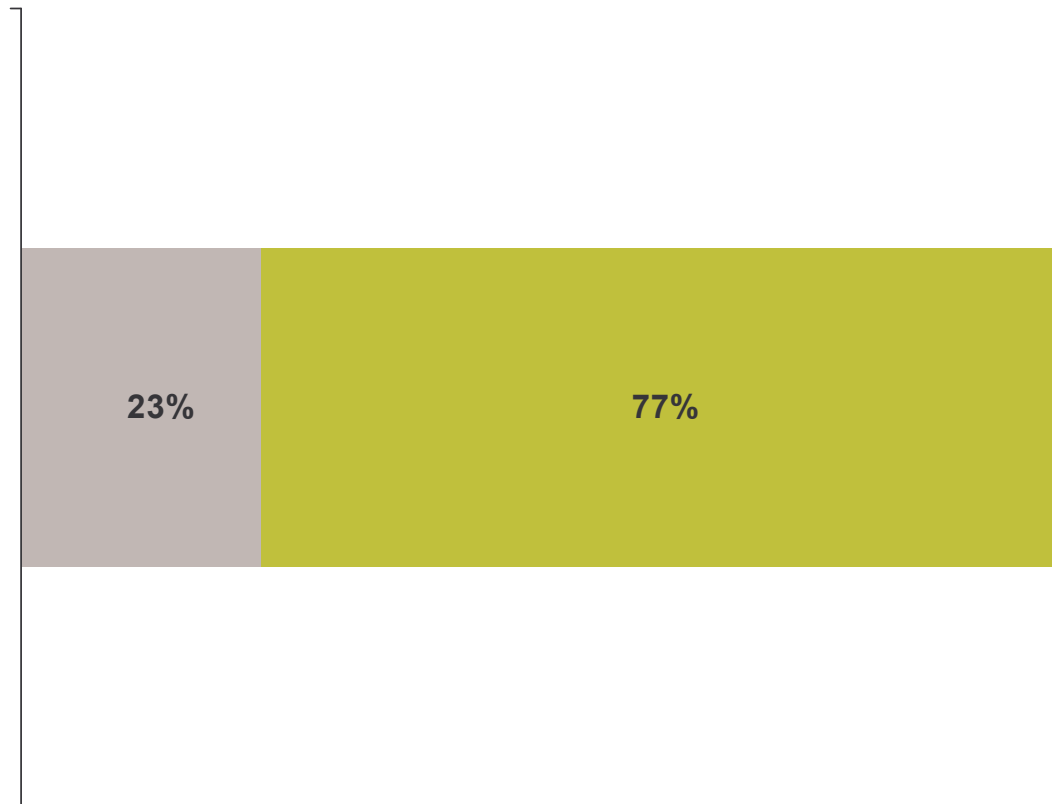
Supported by the feeling that most people feel they would use the cycle ways and walkways sometimes or occasionally

How often do you think you would use the proposed cycle/walkway?



And generally it would be for a trip they wouldn't have made – recreation and exercise

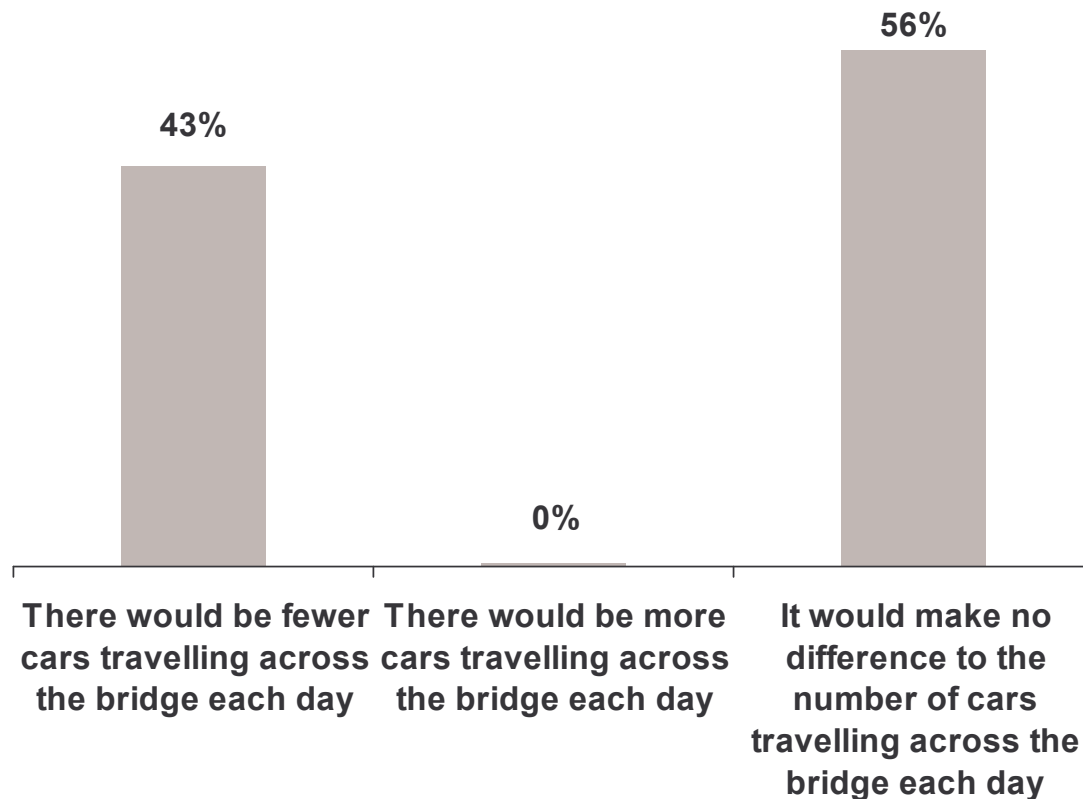
Would that be *instead* of taking a car or bus, or would it be a trip across the bridge you otherwise wouldn't have made?



■ Mainly instead of taking a car or bus ■ Mainly a trip I wouldn't otherwise have made

It will be more difficult to convince people that the key benefit will be less congestion – although it will help

If the cycle/walkways were added, do you think that ...?

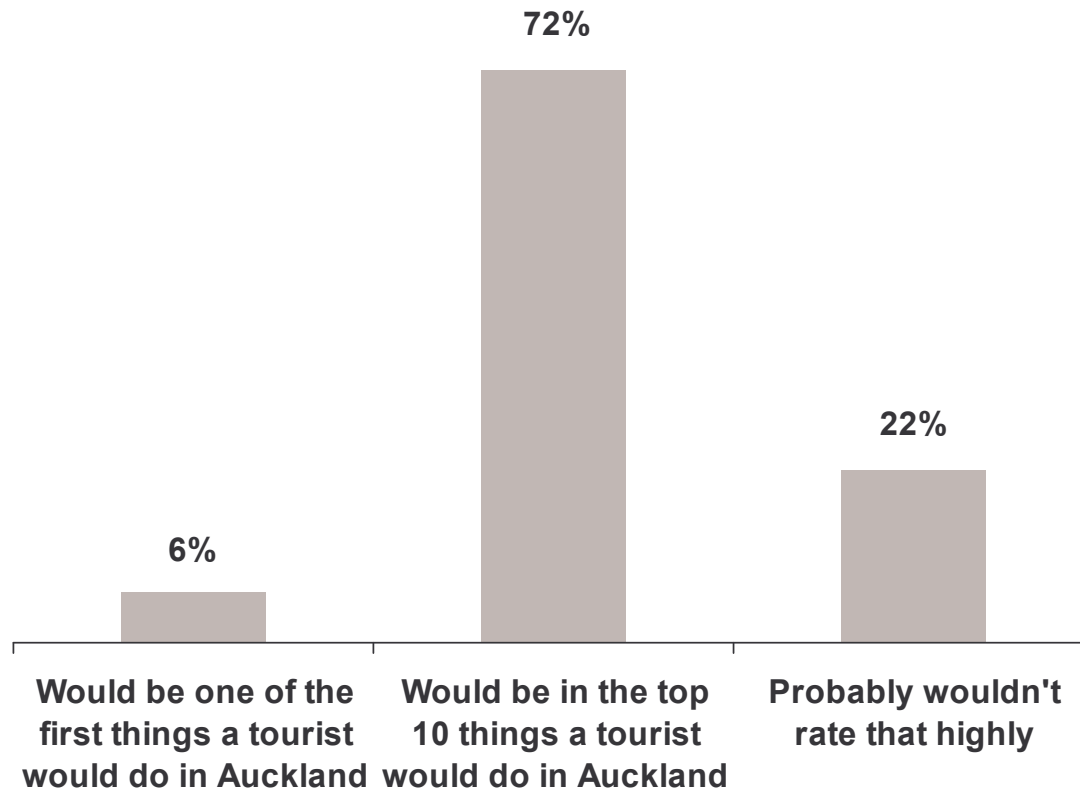


"keen walkers and cyclists may use it instead of driving into town for work"

"most commuters will not use it. It is a long way from homes to a place of work still. Those keen already use the ferry/bus/train option of take a cycle on these forms of transport where allowed"

But there is strong belief that it would be a tourist attraction for Auckland

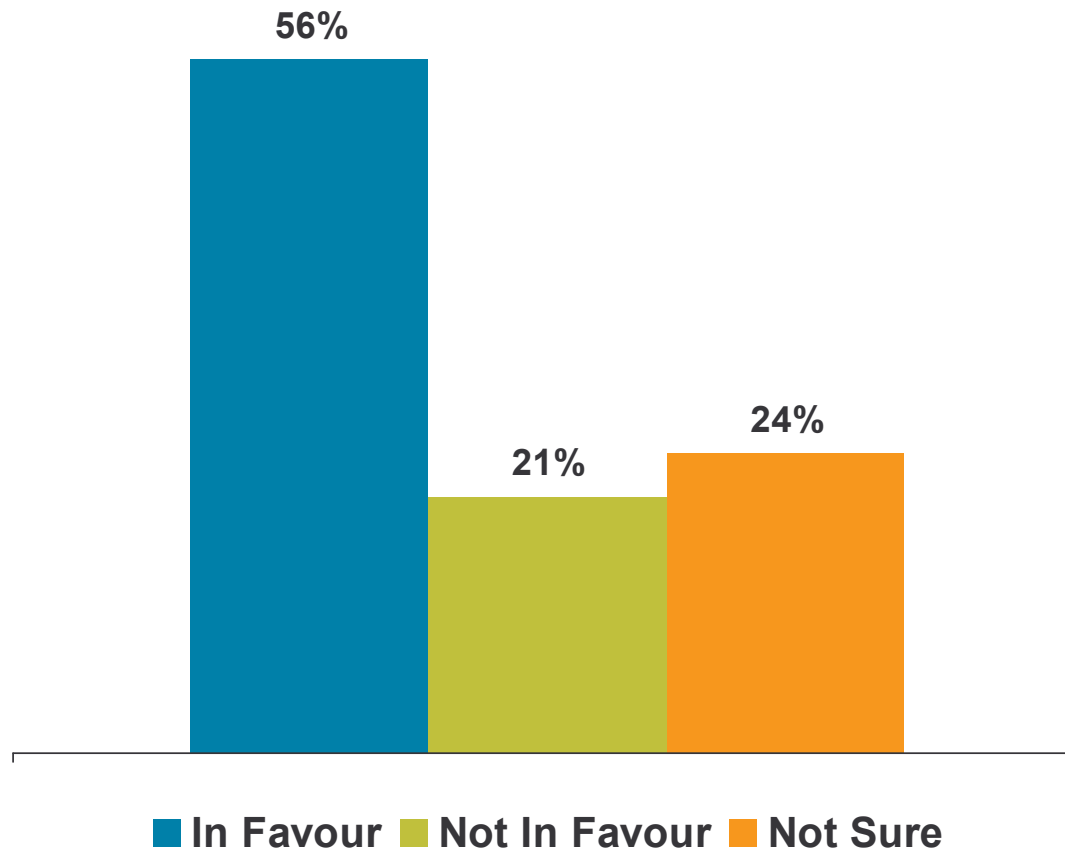
How do you think being able to walk/cycle across the Harbour Bridge would rate as a tourist activity for visitors to Auckland?



Support falls when there is a cost mentioned, but walkways are still favoured by well over half of Aucklanders

Although the bridge clip-ons are going to be strengthened, Transit NZ estimate an additional cost of 20-\$40m to add the cycle walking lanes.

Knowing this, are you still in favour or not in favour of adding the cycle/walking lanes?



Overall

- There is strong support for adding cycle and walkways to the Harbour Bridge
 - Particularly in Auckland City and the North Shore, but also other parts of Auckland
- Support does drop off when the cost is mentioned, but still well over half of Aucklanders support the idea (56%)
- The main benefit is:
 - Opening up the city's walkways and cycle ways for people to use for recreation and exercise
- It would also be a tourist attraction
- Most people would be occasional, rather than regular users
- Easing congestion on the bridge/in Auckland should not be the main focus as it only works for a few people, as is thought to be a marginal benefit overall