

Ref: 00739
RES-1001
RE WM

19 May 2008

Cr Christine Rose
Chair, Transport and Urban Development Committee
Auckland Regional Council
Private Bag 92012
AUCKLAND

Dear Christine

AUCKLAND HARBOUR BRIDGE WALKING AND CYCLING FACILITIES

I refer to your letter of 16 April 2008 in which you express the Auckland Regional Council Transport and Urban Development Committee's concern that the provision of walking and cycling facilities may not be included in the Auckland Harbour Bridge strengthening work, which is due to start in July 2008.

As you may be aware, the purpose of the structural upgrade of the clip-on lanes is to ensure they stay in good condition for the next 20 to 30 years. I assure you that these works do not preclude the addition of a walking and cycling facility. The Board deliberately sought the necessary funding to ensure that further structural elements will be incorporated into the current strengthening works to future-proof the clip-on lanes and allow for future walking and cycling options on the box girders. The strengthening works would need to be well advanced to provide the structural integrity necessary to support works associated with walking and cycling facilities, while addressing the existing structural capacity operational risks of the box girders.

Transit shares your committee's views on the urgency of reaching a regional agreement on a walking and cycling strategy. We support the aims of the study to be completed in June, which will allow the region to reach consensus on a preferred solution as quickly as possible.

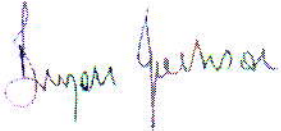
The Transit Board is receiving an update on progress with the Study at its meeting on 7 May 2008. I have also agreed to invite Bevan Woodward, representing Cycle Action Auckland, to present their views.

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* I hope this letter will allay your committee's concerns. I trust that your committee understands the necessity of the structural upgrade works in their own right and that opportunities to add a facility in future will not be lost. The ability to fund an additional walking and cycling facility will be the real issue for region to face.

Yours sincerely



Bryan Jackson
Acting Chair