

# Bike Auckland



## Media Release - Monday, May 24th 2021

### Rally to Liberate The Lane

People from across Auckland will gather on bikes this Sunday, calling for a 3-month cycle lane trial on the Auckland Harbour Bridge. Bike Auckland's 'Liberate The Lane' rally reflects the surge in citizen cycling, fuelled by e-bike popularity, which is causing spectacular uptake in biking for transport.

The rally at Pt Erin Park overlooking the Bridge at 10am on Sunday 30 May will show the diversity of age groups and faces that are 'calling time' on delays on building a walking and cycling pathway on the Bridge. They will ride from South, West and East Auckland, the North Shore and across the Auckland isthmus.

'We're overwhelmed by public frustration about Waka Kotahi's failure to complete its project for a path on the Bridge' reports Barb Cuthbert, Chair of Bike Auckland. 'It's 3 years since the Government announced it would deliver the Skypath project. Waka Kotahi's stunning images launched in May 2019 for Skypath Mk II won wide public acclaim. Two years later we find the design has sunk without trace, and Waka Kotahi is back at the drawing board with its renamed project, the Northern Pathway'

'Reducing Climate Change emissions is top of the Government's and Council's agenda. Our call for a summer cycle lane trial on the Bridge is designed to cause minimum public disruption and respond to the reducing daily numbers of cars crossing the Bridge, noted by the AA. Comparing 2018 with 2021 traffic data shows there are 10,000 to 20,000 fewer cars a day.'

'Our proposal reflects Waka Kotahi's new thinking to promote trials to help us try different travel modes. Auckland can't be expected to wait another 5 years, while Waka Kotahi has another go at delivering on its promise.'

# Bike Auckland



'The Northern Pathway is more than a bridge over the harbour. It's a safe and efficient cycling spine down the North Shore, connecting Albany to the Harbour Bridge and Auckland City.'

'The spectacular success of the Northern Express Busway proves Aucklanders will opt for non-car travel if they have a good alternative' says Barb. 'The North Western Cycleway has people on e-bikes riding 25km from Westgate to the city. Before Covid led to more working from home, counters on the NW Cycleway recorded 323,000 biking trips, with 10% growth monthly increases. Once people are able to ride on e-bikes from Albany to the City the floodgates will be open for similar numbers of people to commute by bike across the Bridge.'

'Bike Auckland has spent decades working with Waka Kotahi to plan a strong cycling network across Auckland, and the Harbour Bridge is the crucial missing link. Shifting from cars to more efficient forms of transport is a national priority, yet Skypath has stalled. Ferries can't be expected to keep coping with the increase in bikes and e-scooters turning up to cross the harbour.' warns Barb Cuthbert. 'Auckland deserves a smart initiative for action now.'

## **Media Release Contact:**

Barb Cuthbert, Chair Bike Auckland

Email – [barbcuthb@gmail.com](mailto:barbcuthb@gmail.com) Phone – 0274125824

Released under the Official Information Act 1982