

Bridge protest

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The NZ Transport Agency is concerned by references in Bevan Woodward's Perspectives article that suggest organisers of a protest to be held this Sunday in support of walking and cycling facilities on the Auckland Harbour Bridge intend to march across the bridge.

While the agency respects the right of people to demonstrate, it is concerned by suggestions the bridge will be opened up for demonstrators to safely and legally march across.

Mr Woodward has been repeatedly told that access to the bridge cannot, for safety reasons, be provided.

The agency has a long-standing and consistent policy that prohibits walking and cycling on the bridge. The policy's key objective is to keep people safe. The bridge is a motorway, and vehicles cross it at high speed. There is little protection for pedestrians or cyclists.

Mr Woodward has previously stated that protest organisers would not force their way on to the bridge or "put people's lives in danger".

The agency would be failing in its duties and obligations if those exercising the right to protest were allowed entry to a busy, rapidly moving motorway where their safety would be at risk.

Wayne McDonald, regional director,
NZ Transport Agency.