

Action Paper N° CS/08/

6173

Action Paper to the Transit New Zealand Board:

**Subject: Auckland Harbour Bridge Box Girder  
Strengthening Project - Construction Fund**

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#### Purpose

1. To seek the Board's approval to submit a funding application to Land Transport New Zealand for \$45 million for the first tranche of construction works to strengthen the Auckland Harbour Bridge Box Girders.

#### Summary of Key Issues

2. In May 2008 we wish to seek construction funding from Land Transport New Zealand for \$45 million to enable commencement of stage 1 of an ongoing strengthening programme for the Auckland Harbour Bridge. The works are due to commence in July 2008 and will extend the structures life and preserve this critical transport link across the Waitemata Harbour.
3. A request for further funding (if required) will be submitted in the future when greater accuracy of the final construction costs can be secured once critical risks are understood.
4. The box girder strengthening works have been designed to not preclude future provision of walking and cycling facilities. Through innovative thinking, further structural elements have been incorporated into the current strengthening works at relatively low cost to future proof for future walking and cycling options. This followed Transit's GMT approval to incorporate such elements to a value of not more than \$1M into the box girders. The current estimate is that these costs will not exceed \$500,000.

### Recommendation

5. That the Board:
  - (a) agrees to seek \$45 million funding from Land Transport New Zealand in May 2008 for the first tranche of construction works to strengthen the Auckland Harbour Bridge Box Girders.
  - (b) Retains Action Paper BPC/08/05/0428 until the funds are approved by Land Transport New Zealand.

### Background

6. In June 2007, a concept design for strengthening the box girder was completed by Beca. It was recommended to Transit that strengthening be carried out as soon as possible and traffic load restrictions be maintained until strengthening works were completed.
7. Subsequently, on 5 September 2007, the Transit Board resolved that the strengthening of the box girders be undertaken and completed within the shortest possible time as a large project but funded using small to medium activities
8. The works are required to commence in July 2008 to enable the critical deck strengthening of Spans 1 and 2 of the west side box girder to be completed ahead of the Christmas 2008/09 three week shutdown period, when the Bolidit resurfacing of these locations is to be carried out.
9. There are ongoing conversations about the provision for walking and cycling across the Auckland Harbour Bridge, although such conversations are at an embryonic stage with no clear approach revealed. No firm proposal is expected in this area until well after the important strengthening work to the box girders has begun. In the meantime the General Management Team resolved to include additional work so as not to preclude any future walking and cycling projects. It was concluded that this was the most pragmatic thing to do to keep these urgent and important works on track.

### In Committee Status

10. This Action Paper is given in committee status under Section 9(2)(k) to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage