**SKYPATH UPDATE**

Last year Dirk and Don as representatives of HBRAI attended an NZTA demonstration evening outlining the plans for this project.

HBRAI supports this project which we believe will be well used by both commuters and visitors who wish to experience walking and/or cycling over the harbour bridge.

Herne Bay is in a unique position for Skypath insofar that it will be subject to the parking and traffic issues resulting from this facility. We expect this will affect Curran St, Shelly Beach Road, eastern Sarsfield St, Tweed St, Emmett St, Hamilton Road and Sentinel Road.

We made this point to the NZTA staff at that meeting and advised we represented the members of HBRAI. In spite of this, the report prepared by NZTA recorded that only two people raised any concerns about parking.

NZTA has called for further submissions which need to be received by **13 April – a tight timeframe – date extended to 19 April, see below**.

Skypath and its North Shore extensions is a major project to complete costing hundreds of millions dollars. In this expenditure there is nothing budgeted for parking facilities to cater for the expected visitor numbers.

NZTA has considerable flat open land available for parking adjacent to Pt Erin Park.

HBRAI will be making a submission on this matter and we suggest that you do so also especially if you live in one of the streets affected, or if you have other comments to make.

We received a number of queries from members about the NZTA consultation documents. We report below.

**UNSATISFACTORY CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

NZTA advisory stated feedback could be via the website or by email. The website provided a list for comment in Survey Monkey format and provided no detail for email submissions. In addition to these issues we pointed out the time frame was extremely tight with submissions due by 13 April. This really was not unsatisfactory.

The Herne Bay situation is unique because of the likely traffic and parking issues. The Survey Monkey format did not cater for parking/traffic matters and without an email contact it is not possible to make a sensible submission. We have been in touch with NZTA who advise that submissions may be sent to NorthernPathway@nzta.govt.nz. If submitting please ensure your submission is clearly marked “Submission on NZTA Northern Pathway consultation”. Note Skypath has been incorporated into a link between various north shore suburbs and renamed the “Northern Pathway”. The NZTA link to the project can be found [**here.**](https://hernebay1011.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=448dcd587c2dd278bde645528&id=b058d53cb8&e=7d972082ce)

Points you can make in a submission are: Herne Bay streets are adjacent and close to the city end of the Northern Pathway, no estimate of visitor numbers has been made, there is no provision for parking facilities for these visitors, the “Skypath” part of the Northern Pathway has disability access, there will need to be special parking for the disabled, the bridge walk/cycle access will be a tourist attraction, etc. There is a considerable amount of flat land owned by the NZTA (next to Pt Erin Park) which is suitable for parking. All eastern Herne Bay roads will be affected if no parking facilities are to be provided.
**As a result of protestations NZTA has also extended the submission period to 19 April.**

