

Encouraging Taxi Drivers to Behave: Grafton Bridge Taxi and Bus Lane Trial



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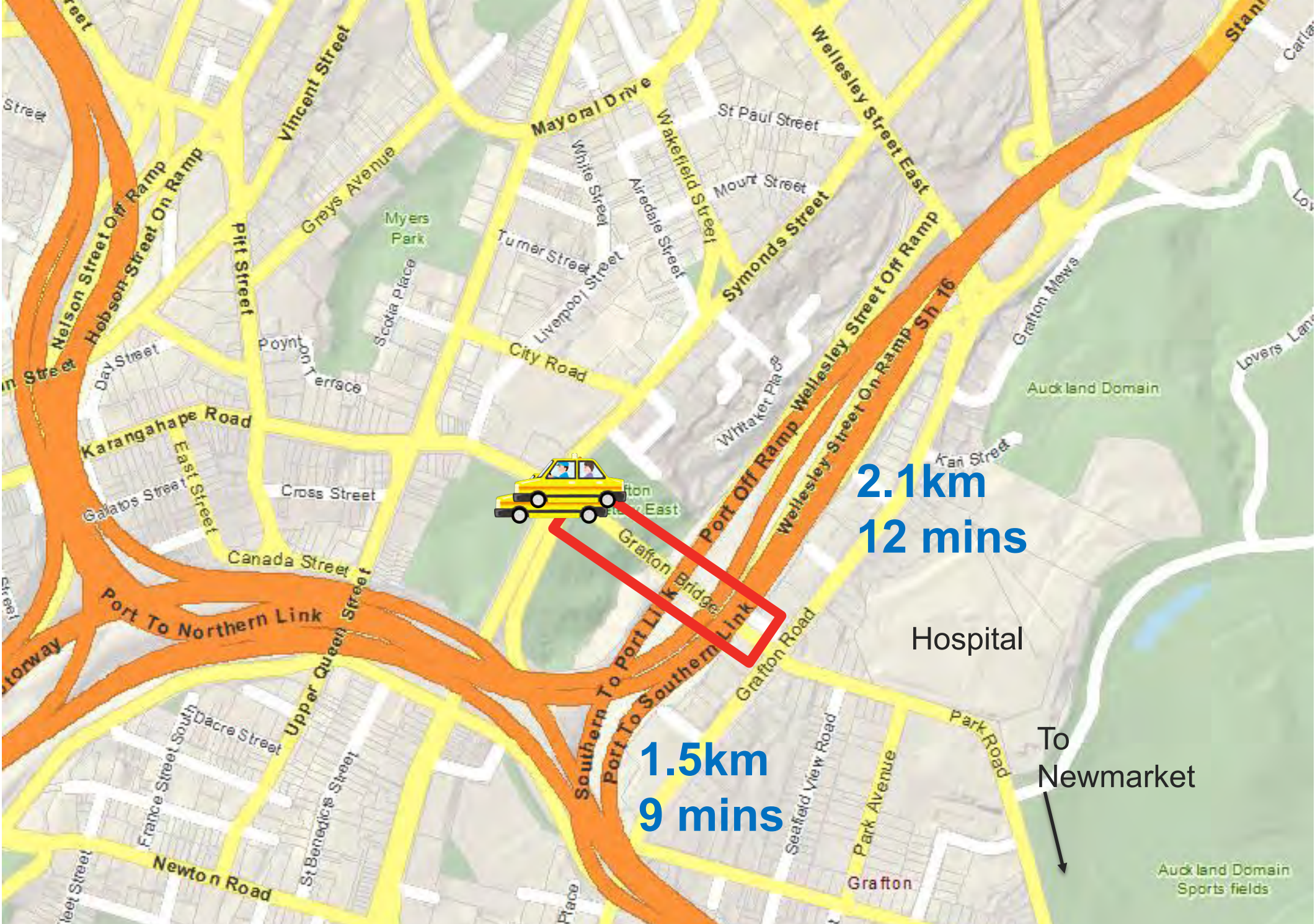


Langha

Wetmorely St



LANE
BUS



2.1km
12 mins

1.5km
9 mins

Hospital

To
Newmarket

Grafton Bridge Users

- 500 bikes per day
- 500 pedestrians per hour
- 100 buses per hour



Why allow taxis onto the bridge?

- Review of taxis in bus lanes citywide
- Taxis are public transport
- Key destinations

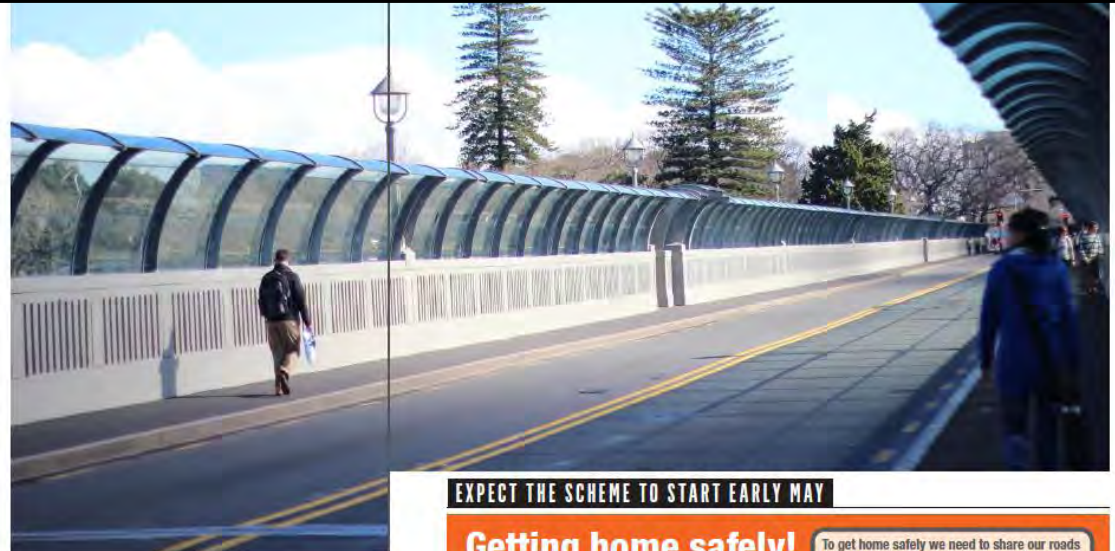


The Process

- Engagement with Taxi Industry
- Workshops
- Consultation with key stakeholders

NZTF | NEW ZEALAND TAXI FEDERATION

GRAFTON BRIDGE TO BE USED BY TAXIS



The Federation is pleased to advise that Taxis will soon be able to cross Grafton Bridge in Auckland, cutting distances dramatically to and from the Hospital.

This is a big win for the Taxi industry and we would like to thank Bhullar Singh and Jacob Patel for their continued support in finishing off the work started by Tim Reddish and in particular, Ian Graham. It also comes on the back of a new, open approach between Auckland Transport and the Taxi Industry. Whilst the Federation is leading this relationship building, it would like to express its thanks to the Hon. Nikki Kaye MP for kick starting the talks.

The conditions surrounding the use of the bridge will be released shortly and there are two important factors to consider:

- Cyclists are powerful friends: The cyclist lobby holds a lot of sway when it comes to transport policy and public opinion. Many of them are highly supportive of taxis, believing they should be used more often to reduce congestion and praise our green eco-footprint. However, whilst they recognise that there has been no serious

incident between a cyclist and taxi for a long time, they are obviously concerned about road sharing.

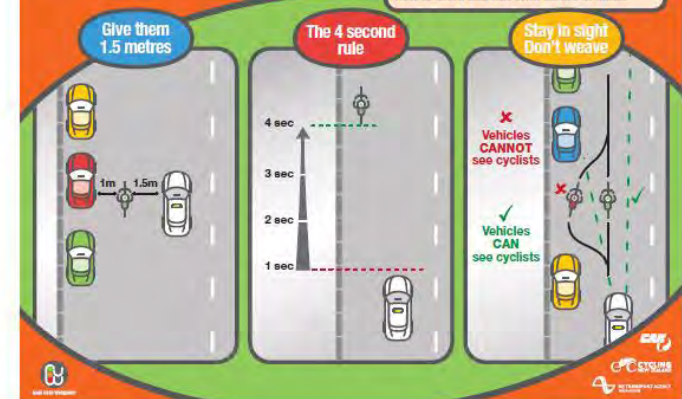
Whilst we do not envision passing to occur at all on Grafton Bridge, opposite is a guideline for all drivers to study for when overtaking a cyclist. However, the thing that upsets most cyclists is suddenly finding a car right behind them. Given that most of our cars will be running silently at the speeds we are talking about, it is even more important to keep a car's length behind cyclists at all times.

- Opportunity to prove ourselves for the future: Auckland Transport are using Grafton Bridge as a trial, not only to help our passengers but because it is also a small, highly controlled area that can be enforced. There is a desire to help taxis improve their productivity throughout Auckland with future potential trials of bus lanes, expressways, priority ranks, priority lanes to the airport and other ideas. However, it is up to the industry to prove that it can operate in these trials as expected. Operators whose drivers do not act responsibly will not be included in future schemes.

EXPECT THE SCHEME TO START EARLY MAY

Getting home safely!

To get home safely we need to share our roads with care. Go to can.org.nz/rw to find out how to drive and ride with others in mind.



Monitoring

- Driver behaviour
 - Proximity to cyclists
 - Overtaking cyclists
 - Exceeding speed limit
 - Stopping on bridge
- Bus journey times
- Volume of cyclists
- Public feedback
- More...

	Monitoring measure	More than minor effect
1	Video analysis of taxi driver behaviour (CCTV and mobile enforcement cameras):	
	• Setting down and picking up of passengers on the bridge or its approaches.	Observed rate greater than 0.05/hr (more than 1 instance observed for every 20 hours of monitoring)
	• Taxis u-turning on bridge	More than 3 recorded instances of taxis making U-turn manoeuvres on the bridge.
	• Interaction of taxis with cyclists and motorcyclists.	More than 3 recorded instances of taxis overtaking cyclists on the bridge; More than 2 recorded instances of cyclists being required to take evasive action because of taxi driver behaviour. More than 3 recorded instances of taxis following too close to cyclists or pressuring them to cycle faster.
	• Interaction of taxis with buses.	More than 3 recorded instances of bus drivers being required to take evasive action because of taxi driver behaviour.
2	Travel time analysis of buses between nodes either side of Grafton Bridge. Utilising bus GPS data.	Increase in average bus travel times of 20 seconds or more which can be attributed to the presence of taxis using the bridge.
3	Analysis of queues at Grafton Bridge/Symonds St/Karangahape Rd and Grafton Bridge/Grafton Road/Park Road intersections	During peak times more than 10% of buses do not clear the intersection approaches to Grafton Bridge on one signal phase due to the presence of taxis. During peak times more than 10% of buses are unable to exit Grafton Bridge on one signal phase due to the presence of taxis.
4	Surveys of taxi speeds (30km/hr limit).	85 th percentile speed of taxis is greater than 30km/hr 95 th percentile speed of taxis is greater than 40km/hr
5	Cyclist numbers before and after.	Cyclists number drop by greater than 10%
6	Analysis of reported crashes on the bridge and the approaches to the bridge.	More than 2 reported crashes involving taxis and buses or vulnerable road users
7	Bus driver survey.	Feedback to be assessed by trial steering group.
8	Cyclist survey.	Feedback to be assessed by trial steering group.
9	Review of any public feedback submitted during trial. Posters will be displayed at each end of the bridge for pedestrians/cyclists providing details of a web site for feedback.	Feedback to be assessed by trial steering group.
10	Review of any local board feedback during trial.	Feedback to be assessed by trial steering group.
11	Review of general vehicle infringements.	Greater than 75% increase in rate of infringements
12	Review of taxi infringements in bus lanes across Auckland.	Greater than 200% increase in rate of infringements

Physical Changes



Initial Operation

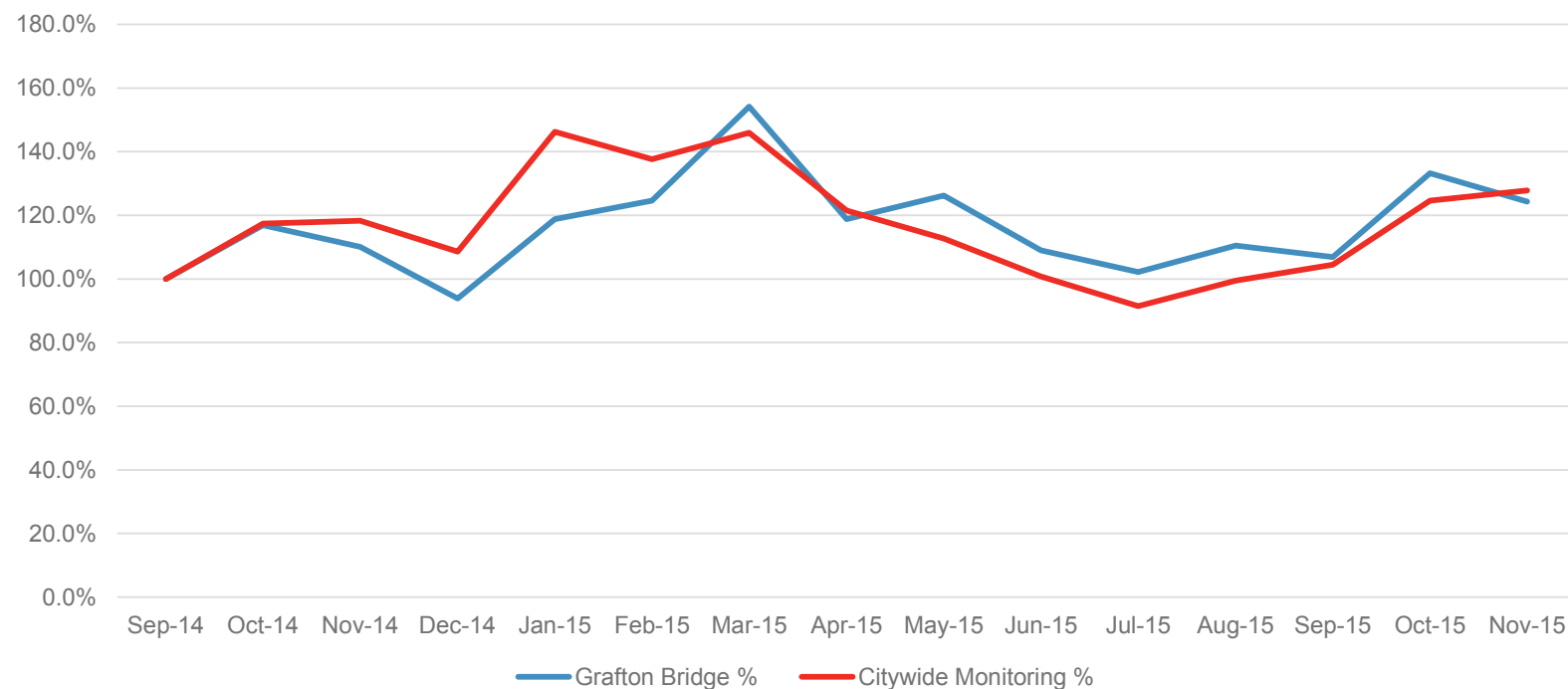
Grafton Bridge Cam



Quarterly Monitoring Results – Good News

- Up to 20 taxis per hour
- No impact on cycle volumes

Cycle volume compared to Sept 2014 baseline



Quarterly Monitoring Results – Not so Good News

- 85th percentile speed **44** km/h
- Overtaking

Monitoring Results



Grafton Bridge Cam

Monitoring Results

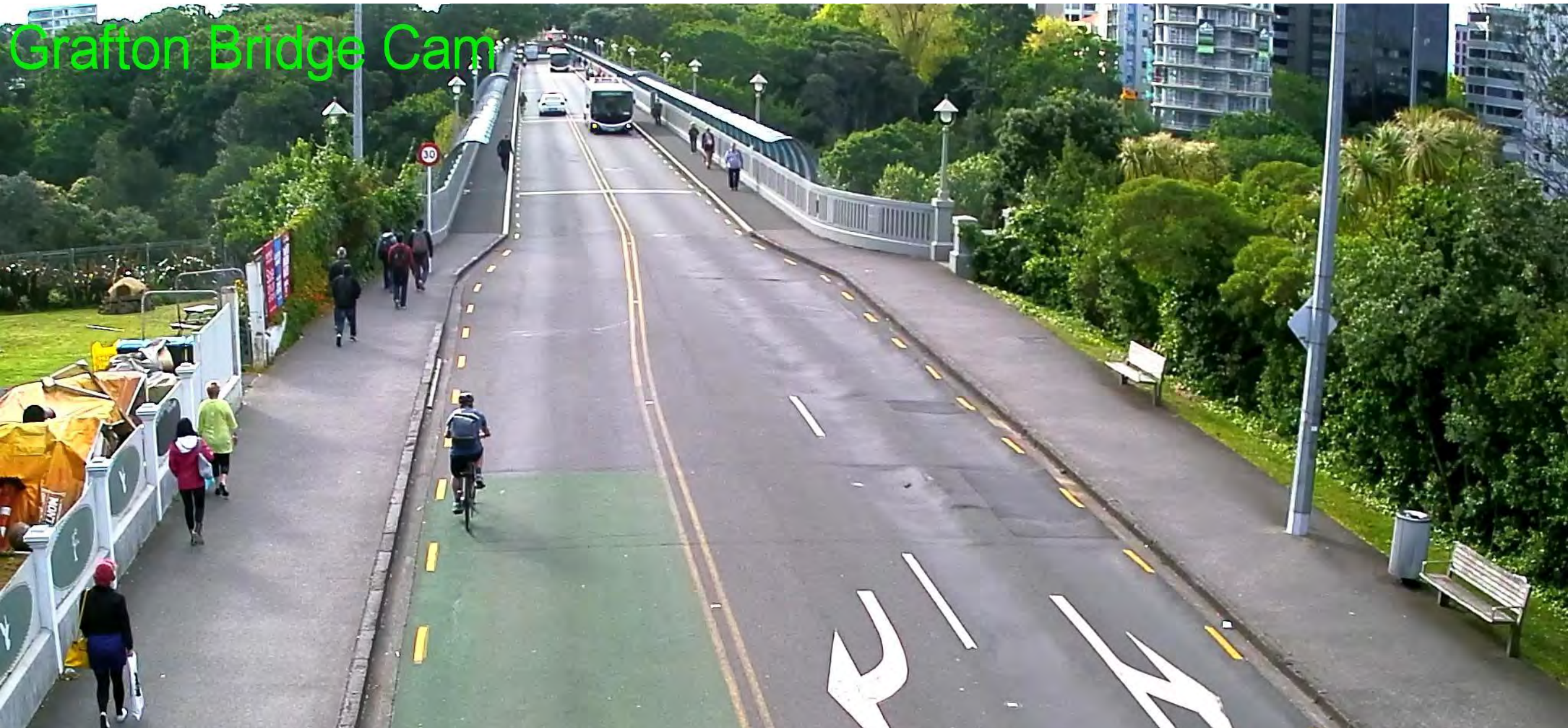


Monitoring Results



Grafton Bridge Cam

Monitoring Results



Grafton Bridge Cam

Monitoring Results



Going Forward

- Reverting to standard bus lane
- Still trying to determine how to get taxi drivers to behave



However...



Thank you.

