

12 June 2023

TO: Dean Kimpton - CEO, Wayne Donnelly - acting chair, Mark Darrow - acting deputy chair, Darren Linton, Kylie Clegg, Nicole Rosie, Abbie Reynolds, Councillor Andrew Baker, Councillor Mike Lee.

RE: GREAT NORTH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Dear Dean and AT Board members,

We understand that the AT Board will be making a final decision on the Great North Road improvements project at its 27 June 2023 meeting.

We also understand that the Board will be considering 3 options for the project...

1. Delivery of the project as originally planned.
2. A cheap 'Tim Tam' scheme.
3. A status quo 'do nothing' option.

Tim Tam scheme

Although we haven't seen details of the downgraded 'cheap' scheme, we understand it involves using Tim Tams as per the controversial Upper Harbour Drive project, removal of most of the pedestrian safety raised tables at side streets, and reduction or elimination of features that support a sense of Place (less trees, less streetscape).

On behalf of (i) the residents and community of Grey Lynn, and (ii) all stakeholders in the Community-led Vision for Great North Road, we are extremely concerned that AT is considering an inferior upgrade.

- We have been working with AT since 2016 through successive rounds of consultations and numerous meetings to support AT in achieving a good outcome for our community and the rapidly growing Great North Road ridge.
- Funding is in place from Waka Kotahi for delivery of the project as originally planned. Losing their dollar-for-dollar contribution to the project would be a travesty and would epitomise "penny wise; pound foolish" decision making.
- Removing Place elements and focusing only on Movement runs counter to AT's stated aims, the funding criteria of Waka Kotahi, and the community's wishes. We don't want to replace a barren, concrete traffic sewer with another barren, concrete traffic sewer that flushes bikes through as efficiently as it does cars and buses. Supporting the sense of Place is super important to the community.
- Implementing a cheap scheme now means a second round of road disruption when it's done properly in future years. Do it once; do it right.

- The road is being dug up anyway for other scheduled infrastructure work. Aligning the Great North Road improvements project with this other work reduces costs for AT and reduces disruption for local businesses and residents. Do it once; do it right.
- Safety is important. If a vulnerable road user is injured or killed at an intersection that was previously scheduled for a raised table, but eliminated for reasons of false economy by the AT Board, will the AT Board accept responsibility for that fatality?
- There has been an outpouring of public support for the Great North Road improvements project ever since it was put on hold last year. If the AT Board caves in to political pressure and opts to lose Waka Kotahi's funding and deliver unwanted Tim Tams like the controversial Upper Harbour Drive project, it risks severe reputational damage to AT.

We urge you to do the right thing while the funding is secured. Our community opposes a downgraded project. We urge you to do it once; do it right.

Regards,

Grey Lynn Residents Association Inc committee

David Batten, Peter Bell, John Diamond, Joanna Hurst, Nicola Legat, Tania Mace, Dan Salmon, Brandon Wilcox