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Submission to the Auckland Transport Board  
Reference: CRM:00063003900 (CAS-768106-Q8L9H8)

Dear Board

I'm writing firstly to express my extreme disappointment in the failure of AT to take advantage of the Kiwirail track maintenance and install the promised link from Gowing Drive to the stage two of Te ara ki uta ki tai - the shared path from Glen Innes to Tamaki Drive. This link would have fixed a seventy year planning oversight and allowed the students of St Thomas's School and Selwyn College who reside in Meadowbank to get safely to school.

My main complaint however, is how poorly this has been communicated and the subsequent hurt and disappointment you have inflicted on a community.

You must have made the decision to pull the funding a long time ago, yet the only information I have seen about the project being canned is through my contacts who first noticed that there was no resource consent and no tenders were being sought for the works. For an organisation that is in part funded by ratepayers, and that spent consulting the community on the design, to make an arbitrary decision without communicating it is disrespectful to the community at large. Even if you had made the tunnel under the railway during this one-in-a-hundred year opportunity, that would at least have shown you actually thought and cared about your decision.

I have no idea how your funding model works but it is clearly broken. Until recently, your website is advertising the proposed connection. Why isn't money ring-fenced for projects once they are approved? I fully realise that the January floods have put a huge financial load on your organisation, but to pull funding from all local projects without consideration of the fact that it would be far, far cheaper in the long term to build the tunnel with Kiwirail's cooperation than to try and push it through underneath freshly laid tracks on a working rail network.

I'm just a nearby resident, who won't even benefit much from this connection. The reason I'm writing is because of my affinity with the local schools and I can see how much it would reduce school time traffic, overcrowded school buses and let students do after school activities without a long and hilly walk home.

I hope you can take this feedback and work on getting better decisions, better communication and that you will do your utmost to make sure that this link is put through as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like assurance from you that the property at 92 Gowing Drive that was purchased to access the rail line will be retained, maintained properly and not sold off.

Thank you for your time.

Roger Lacey

CC Cr. Simpson  
CC Orakei Local Board  
CC Bike Auckland