



15 June 2023

Letter to the Auckland Transport Board

**Re: Great North Road Upgrade**

I am writing with regards to the decision you will be making about options to upgrade Great North Road.

As we understand, AT is determining whether to proceed with the project as planned, a scaled-back "interim" scheme or a not to proceed.

We have not seen the proposed design for the interim scheme, but we believe that it involves aspects such as downgrading the proposed streetscape upgrade, reducing the number of new trees, and removing many of the proposed side street treatments.

We would urge AT to proceed with the original project as planned.

- Local residents and businesses have waited many years for the upgrade. We have participated constructively in successive rounds of consultation to help AT achieve the best outcome for our local community and businesses. We are concerned that if there is a decision not to proceed or an 'interim' solution is agreed, the reality is that there would be no further development for a decade. This is unacceptable and a false economy at a time when there is rapid development in this area.
- The key points during our consultation have been the need to balance the development of a sense of place, as well as an efficient transportation route. This is an inner city residential and local business area and the road/footpath treatments need to create an environment that contributes to quality of life and supports a thriving business community.
- We note the proposed solution (that we have consulted on) included a balance of initiatives based on improving side street parking, improving bus flow and bus stops, making the road safer, improving cycle and pedestrian movement, addressing loading zone issues, planting more trees and beautification. We are concerned that an interim solution will not address these important issues and we will be left with a substandard solution, locked in for the long term.

The Grey Lynn community has worked constructively in good faith with AT over several years to develop a solution for Great North Road. It is of significant concern that this may be modified in secret at the last moment. This is not good process or public sector leadership.

We urge you to continue to invest in quality infrastructure for the long term.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Stephenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" written in a slightly larger, more prominent script than the last name "Stephenson". The signature is contained within a light grey rectangular border.

Paul Stephenson

Chair, Grey Lynn Business Association