



22 March 2013

Mr Len Brown
The Mayor of Auckland
Auckland Council
Private Bag 92 300
Auckland 1142

Dear Len,

eLtrack – an elevated alternative for the CRL Tunnel.

We are a group of Auckland-based infrastructure consultants. Over the last year we have prepared a contemporary and affordable alternative for the proposed CRL Tunnel.

Our proposal, which we've called eLtrack, is a mostly elevated train route above existing transport routes. It provides a range of benefits for the city when compared to the tunnel proposal, not least of which is a significantly lower cost.

The eLtrack route is double-tracked and meets the specifications for the new EMUs. We have completed an assessment for the route and taken account of relevant transport, engineering, urban design, and planning matters. An 'order of magnitude' cost estimate is also available.

The project is explained in the attached brochure. The Light Rail Transit component along Queen Street and Karangahape Road is essential to the idea, and is included in the estimated cost.

eLtrack was presented to the Office of the Mayor, NZTA senior staff and senior personnel of the CRL team early last year, and was mentioned in the City Centre Future Access Study (November 2012). We are disappointed that it was not seriously considered in that report, and we believe its casual dismissal as a viable option was a mistake.

The advantages of eLtrack over the tunnel, additional to its savings of around \$750M, are outlined in the brochure.

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We have met with the MP for Auckland Central, Nikki Kaye who suggested we write to you with copies to key decision makers. We consider eLtrack needs a serious evaluation as an alternative to the tunnel. We recognise the extent of work that has already been done on the latter, and that an evaluation may still favour that option.

The group fully supports the concept of a City Rail Link, and does not seek to slow progress toward that end. However, given the scale of the project and the Government's reluctance to contribute to its cost, we consider it prudent to have a viable and lower cost alternative for all parties to consider and compare.

We are prepared to meet with an evaluation team and table the information we have prepared. This includes track alignment diagrams, sketch cross-sections and the cost estimate.

We would appreciate the opportunity to present eLtrack to you personally, and to arrange a meeting with your evaluation team.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Smythe', with a long, wavy tail.

Stephen Smythe

On behalf of –
The Greenways Project
And
Bossley Architects
Holmes Consulting Group
Rider Levett Bucknall
And other consultants.

Address for service:

Greenways, c/o PO Box 5736, Auckland 1141

Copy to:

Hon Gerry Brownlee, Minister of Transport
Hon Steven Joyce, Minister for Economic Development
Hon Nikki Kaye, Minister, and Member for Auckland Central