

Board throws out AT congestion plan

A confidential Auckland Transport (AT) plan to improve traffic around the Matiatia ferry terminal was rejected by the transport forum and board members at a meeting last week.

"AT presented a plan which wasn't ideal from our perspective," local board chairperson Cath Handley told *Gulf News*.

"We didn't think it was as good as it could be. We suggested some alternatives and they are going away to design around those alternatives and come back to us."

Ms Handley says the AT design included ideas that would be too disruptive to current transport patterns and operators, particularly to parking.

"The transport plan was presented confidentially because it involves a lot of disruptions in the Matiatia area," says Ms Handley.

"It didn't seem like it was a last-minute plan, but that it would require too many groups to shift from their current locations and might have cost too much. There was also an issue about where that funding would come from."

The board and transport forum members put their own plan to AT during the

meeting last week.

"The new proposal, which came from one of the transport forum members and was collaborated on by the people who attended the meeting last week, has resulted in quite a different plan."

Ms Handley says it is now up to AT to look at costing and feasibility and to come back with an amended report.

Despite efforts over previous summers, the influx of visitors to the island has continued to result in a chaotic environment for pedestrians, buses and bus users, tour vehicles and taxi operators. Auckland Transport stated that a trial plan last summer to improve traffic flow in the area was only partially successful.

The transport forum, AT and board members have set a tentative meeting for Thursday 19 September to review the updated plan for the Matiatia ferry terminal area for the coming summer.

• *Sophie Boladeras*



The local board and transport forum have not endorsed an Auckland Transport proposal to improve congestion at Matiatia.

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