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ARCHIVES GALLERY GOES UNDERGROUND

An underground railway for Auckland city is nothing new as Archives New Zealand's Auckland online gallery reveals.

Various schemes were considered for building a railway link beneath central Auckland from 1929 to 1976 and the new online exhibition *Auckland Underground* gives an insight into the plans.

Reflecting on how the exhibition developed, Auckland Regional Archivist Mark Stoddart says, "I knew of a collection of old photographs of Auckland buildings among records on the Auckland Rapid Transit scheme. My staff thought that people would enjoy seeing these on the internet.

"While researching the exhibition, we discovered detailed planning had been undertaken on three occasions, following reports on Auckland's transport system.

"A common element each time was the so-called Auckland-Morningside deviation, which involved an underground link under Auckland's CBD, so we focused on this common element and selected photos of buildings along this route for the gallery.

"The images used in the exhibition are all historical material the Auckland repository of Archives New Zealand makes available to the public. They were selected on the basis of what we think our internet audience would find interesting.

"There will be plenty of other records on the topic held here among records of New Zealand Rail, Ministry of Works and Ministry of Transport.

"We intend to highlight further themes in the future to capture the imagination with other treasures to be found in over 30 linear kilometres of our Auckland holdings," says Mark Stoddart.

Auckland Underground is the first exhibition for the new Auckland online gallery at:

<http://gallery.archives.govt.nz/v/auckland>.

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