

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

Key Author for Correspondence:

First name	Andrew	Surname	Stevens
Organisation	Auckland Motorway Alliance		
Postal address	Private Bag 11918, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542		
E-mail Address	andrew.stevens@ama.nzta.govt.nz		
Phone number	09 539 9118	Cell Number	09 539 9118

2nd Co-Author:

First name	Rojina	Surname	Baisyet
Organisation	Beca / Auckland Motorways		

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Overview of Presentation

The issue of motorists entering the Auckland Motorway network via off ramps is a significant safety issue. This phenomenon of 'Wrong Way' or 'Ghost' drivers appears to be a growing issue around the rest of the country as the length of motorway and expressway grows and the driving population ages.

The bulk of motorists who make the mistake of turning down an off ramp against the traffic flow are people who would typically be deemed as competent drivers. These motorists appear to quickly recognise their error and make a hasty retreat.

Those drivers who make it past the off ramp and onto the mainline tend to be impaired drivers, either by way of drugs, alcohol or some age related impairment. It is these motorists who end up contributing to the death and serious injury road statistics.

Stopping these Wrong Way drivers once they are on a divided carriageway is a significant challenge. However there are some relatively simple tools that can be deployed to reduce the risk of a driver making a wrong turn in the first place.

The Auckland Motorway Alliance has successfully trialled some 'Wrong Way' detection technology as proof of concept and is now working towards the implementation of a raft of prevention measures. Some of the findings the AMA has learnt are presented in this paper. There are also some helpful hints for all drivers to protect themselves, their families and friends against the risk of them featuring in the statistics as either a perpetrator or an innocent victim of Wrong Way driving.