



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC49593

Minister for Main Roads

24 AUG 2010

Mr Paul French
Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
GPO Box 2104
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Mr French

Thank you for your letter of 25 May 2010 about the proposed timing for completing the Gateway Bikeway Project. Planning for cyclists has been an important part of the Gateway Upgrade Project. In addition to the \$36m shared pathway on the new Sir Leo Hilscher Bridge, the Gateway Upgrade Project has also contributed \$5m to fund Stage 1 of the Gateway Bikeway Project on the northern side of the Brisbane River.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads supports and is committed to delivering a bikeway between the Gateway Bridge and Kedron Brook Bikeway.

A design for an 'ultimate' alignment has been developed, however, at significant anticipated project costs. Given these costs, conflicts with the Airport Roundabout Upgrade and time constraints, an interim connectivity solution (Stage 1) was proposed with support from Brisbane City Council.

The department is currently reviewing the 'ultimate' design and considering further options that provide for better access and connectivity through the Brisbane Airport precinct.

Works for Stage 1 (the interim alignment) are now complete, providing a safe pedestrian and cycle link along Kingsford Smith Drive, through TradeCoast Central's land, along Terminal Drive to Lamington Avenue. The connection continues across Nudgee Road to the existing cycle lanes on Lancaster Road, which forms part of the interim Morston Bay Cycleway. Signage to this effect is now being installed along this route.

Brisbane City Council has committed \$5.1m funding towards the construction of the Schulz Canal Bridge (Stage 1A). This will connect the proposed cycleway connection within the Brisbane Airport precinct to Nudgee Road and the Kedron Brook Wetlands Bikeway.

Increased revenue from early completion of the Gateway Upgrade Project, as well as that generated from the new tolling structure to be introduced to the Queensland Motorways network from 1 July 2010, will be used to contribute to funding for major upgrades to the southern end of the Gateway Motorway and the extension of the Port of Brisbane Motorway.

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Approximately 70 000 motorists per day currently travel through the current four-lane stretch of the Gateway Motorway between Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road and Miles Platting Road. The upgrade will provide an increase from four to six lanes, which will decrease travel times through the area, lessen the impact of traffic incidents and provide a safer traffic environment. In addition, the revenue will help fund the extension of the Port of Brisbane Motorway east from beyond Lindum Road to Pritchard Road, to provide reliable and efficient access to the port.

The need for a safe and direct cycle facility from Brisbane's northern suburbs to the Central Business District is supported both by the Queensland Government's South East Queensland Principal Cycle Network Plan and by Brisbane City Council's draft Lutwyche Road Corridor Neighbourhood Plan.

Following on from local and state government studies, my department is now undertaking the North Brisbane Cycleway investigation, which will produce concept designs for high-quality cycle facilities from Roma Street to Kedron Brook and ultimately, to Chermide.

The investigation is a recommended action from the Western Brisbane Transport Network Strategy, which was released by the Queensland Government in September 2009. This strategy identified the need for a high quality cycle facility in the short- to medium-term to address this vital missing link in Brisbane's cycle network.

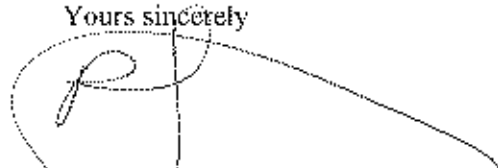
The proposed route is intended to link cycle facilities that are being delivered as part of the Airport Link and Clem7 projects at Bowen Hills, through Albion and Wooloowin and with the existing bikeways at Normanby, Victoria Park, Inoggera Creek, Kedron Brook and Downfall Creek.

Connections to Wavell Heights, Toombul, Fortitude Valley, the Cycle Centre at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston and feeder routes into the main cycleway are also being considered as part of this work.

In terms of the Velo-City bid, my department notes your interest and advises that unfortunately while my department was not successful in this bid, my department will continue to pursue the aim of reinforcing that Brisbane is one of the world's most exciting cycling cities by continued investment in cycling projects.

Thank you for your interest in improving cycling in Brisbane.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rachel Nolan', written over a faint circular watermark or background.

RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport