



**Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
CBD BUG**

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The Honourable Ms Rachel Nolan MP
Minister for Transport
GPO Box 2644
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Dear Minister

This letter calls on the Queensland Government to immediately announce a specific and short-term timeframe for completing the Gateway Bikeway Project.

The reason for this letter is that through the soon to be fully operational \$1.88 billion Gateway Upgrade Project motorists will shortly enjoy twin Sir Leo Hielscher Bridges and 23 kilometres of new straight, flat, six, eight and even sections of twelve lane wide motorway, finished well ahead of schedule.

However, in contrast the "interim" Gateway Bikeway Project (northern link) will lead to cyclists being barely off the new bridge before the bikeway ends and they are dumped on to busy Nudgee Road. This point is kilometres from the nearest existing off-road bikeway, and is in an area where the roads are dominated by many heavy vehicles, with the only indication of a principle cycling route being yellow cyclist outlines painted along Lancaster Road and Kitchener Road.

For over two years cyclists have heard from numerous Queensland Government ministers about the new bikeway that would run from the second Gateway Bridge to existing cycle facilities along Kedron Brook. Instead what has happened is that as the bikeway project downgrades have emerged the planned route has become increasingly indirect, more on-road, and with less definite timeframes. The differences between the new infrastructure provided for motorists via the Gateway Upgrade Project and that provided for cyclists via the Gateway Bikeway Project could not be starker.

Brisbane's northern suburbs are very poorly serviced for off-road cycle commuter facilities. In fact they are virtually non-existent further out from Brisbane's central business district than Bowen Hills. Furthermore, on-road cycling on the north side of Brisbane is extremely difficult for the majority of people as the narrow lane widths and large volumes of high speed traffic mean only the most confident of cyclists are prepared to venture on to these roads. These are major contributing reasons behind why with approximately 83% of all trips in south-east Queensland still being made by car this region is one of the most car dependant communities in the world.

This inappropriate prioritisation of car-based transport ahead of cycling (and walking) and the ongoing short-changing of cyclists is just the latest of a long series of poor outcomes for cyclists from DTMR projects. The CBD BUG sees this as indicative on a continuing philosophy within DTMR that cars are still the future of personal transport, while enabling cycling to be a viable transport alternative is regarded as a quaint academic notion, or is at best relegated to a minor afterthought considered only after the optimal outcomes for motorists have been delivered. Further evidence of this philosophy coming from just this project alone is that cyclists (and pedestrians) will have to wait several weeks longer than motorists simply to cross the new bridge.

Even more concerning for Brisbane cyclists is the advice from the Brisbane City Council (BCC) of the BCC's commitment to provide a financial contribution for off-road bikeway link that included a dedicated bikeway along the old Gateway Motorway and a bridge over Schulz Canal. Despite this funding support cyclists are still left with a sub-standard and dangerous interim route that in no way reflects the safe and direct route provided to motorists.

According to Queensland Government statements the early completion of this project means the State Government can start recouping the costs of the project earlier than expected. Not surprisingly, CBD BUG members are asking why this "unexpected" funding cannot now be directed to accelerating the completion of the Gateway Bikeway Project.

Finally, in view of the your recent announcement of Brisbane making the shortlist to host the world's biggest bike transport conference – the European Cyclists' Federation Velo-city 2012 – it is imperative the Queensland Government actually has the "runs on the board" to prove Brisbane "is now one of the world's most exciting cycling cities".

I look forward to your response detailing the timeframe for completing the Gateway Bikeway Project.

Yours faithfully



Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

25 May 2010