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26 August 2014

Mr Donald Campbell
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD Bicycle User Group
GPO Box 2104
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Campbell

Thank you for your email of 30 July 2014 about cycling conditions on Stanley Street, South Brisbane.

I appreciate your concerns about cycling safety and asked the relevant areas of Council to look into the arrangements in the vicinity of the new Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH).

As you know, it was agreed at the meeting between Council, AbiGroup (Lend Lease) and the Brisbane CBD BUG that advanced bicycle storage boxes would be installed on Stanley Street at the Raymond Terrace and Graham Street intersections. I can also confirm that a kerb ramp approaching the Graham Street intersection will be built to allow cyclists to access the footpath and to use the signalised pedestrian crossing.

Despite these measures, I note your members have raised concerns about potential conflicts between cyclists and motorists turning left from Stanley Street into Raymond Terrace and Graham Street. Mr Nicholas Debritz from Council's Transport Planning and Strategy branch (TPS) tells me that the advanced bicycle storage boxes on Stanley Street at these intersections are between 1.5 and 2 metres long, which is considered long enough for cyclists to safely position themselves in clear view of left turning motorists. Mr Debritz has advised that if these boxes were any longer, motorists may be inclined to cut across them when turning left, which could pose a safety risk to cyclists.

I appreciate your suggestion for bicycle push buttons to hold the turning traffic. I am advised by Council's Congestion Reduction Unit (CRU) that bicycle push buttons, as installed on Graham Street, are generally intended to provide a bicycle demand for the side roads, as are bicycle detector loops.

The existing red left turn arrow signal from Stanley Street into Raymond Terrace appears for seven seconds when demanded by pedestrians. I am advised that, from site observations, drivers do not have problems giving way to pedestrians or cyclists during the start of the Stanley Street green phase as they can be clearly seen waiting in the bicycle storage area.

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I acknowledge that motorists turning left into Raymond Terrace across the path of cyclists proceeding straight ahead may be an issue during the 'all green' phase in free flowing traffic conditions. However, this is not able to be addressed through changes to the signal phasing, because the red left turn arrow signal would need to be displayed for the full duration of the Stanley Street green phase, preventing motorists from turning left into Raymond Terrace during this phase. This would significantly increase traffic queues and congestion along this corridor.

While I appreciate the concerns you have expressed, it is worth noting that the current arrangement at this intersection is no different to any left turn scenario from a major road to a side road at unsignalised intersections, where motorists need to take account of cyclists proceeding in designated bike lanes.

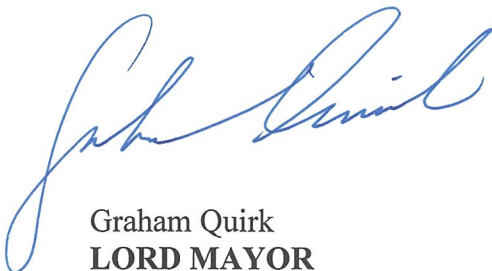
In view of the above, I am advised that Council does not propose to alter signal phasing at this intersection. If you would like any further information about the traffic signals, please contact Mr Con Calos from CRU on 3403 8888.

I understand the kerb ramp at the LCCH covered entrance on Stanley Street was modified to allow cyclist access to the footpath prior to Graham Street. Construction of additional ramps further east towards Graham Street and on the approach to Raymond Terrace would give cyclists the opportunity to use the signalised crossings. However, I am mindful that when the hospital opens towards the end of this year, pedestrian footpath traffic will be much higher along Stanley Street. Nevertheless, your suggestion has merit and I have asked Mr Debritz to carry out a pedestrian safety assessment once the hospital opens. If the assessment determines that kerb ramps would not unreasonably impact on pedestrian safety, I will arrange for TPS to carry out this work.

I have asked Mr Debritz to contact you at the end of November, when the results of the assessment are known, to discuss any outcomes that may arise. Should you wish to discuss the kerb ramps or advanced bicycle storage boxes further, please contact Mr Debritz on 3403 8888. If you have any questions about the related development conditions, please contact Mr Daniel Spillane, Senior Engineer from Council's Development Assessment branch, on the same number.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me about this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graham Quirk', written in a cursive style.

Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR

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