



OFFICE OF THE
LORD MAYOR
Brisbane

Office
City Hall
King George Square
Brisbane Qld 4000 Australia
Tel 07 3403 4400
Fax 07 3403 9930
LORDMAYOR@brisbane.qld.gov.au
Postal
GPO Box 2287
Brisbane Qld 4001 Australia

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Dr Richard Bean
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG (Bicycle User Group)
GPO Box 2104
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Dr Bean

Thank you for your email of 7 July 2014 to raise a number of concerns related to cycling and infrastructure in our city.

Firstly, I would like to say that the Brisbane CBD BUG's continued advocacy on cycling safety issues is very valuable to me and I sincerely appreciate your feedback. As you have raised multiple issues in your email, I will endeavour to address each of them accordingly as well as offer any insight I can into Council's position and future actions on each separate matter.

With regard to your concerns about the bikeway crossing in Archer Street, I am pleased to hear Mr Andrew Macbeth from Council's Transport Planning and Strategy branch (TPS) spoke with you about this matter on 16 July. I note your comments about the Stop sign at this location and appreciate that it may be less than convenient for cyclists travelling outbound to bring their bikes to a complete stop.

Mr Macbeth has suggested that the Stop sign could be replaced with a Give Way sign, while still maintaining safety for all road users. I understand that you are happy for this change to occur. Therefore, I have asked TPS to arrange for the Stop sign for southbound traffic to be replaced with a Give Way sign and am advised that this work is expected to be completed by the end of October.

In relation to your comments about the existing northbound Give Way sign, Mr Macbeth has advised that, under the road rules, cyclists are required to give way to motorists at this location, and generally on exclusive cycle paths and shared pathways on side roads. Therefore, in the interests of safety, it is not proposed to remove the Give Way sign located here at this time.

I note your suggestion for pavement treatment to be applied across the Archer Street intersection, similar to the threshold treatment that is already in place in nearby Glen Road, and agree that it would enhance safety for all road users. As such, I am pleased to confirm that coloured threshold treatment will be installed across the intersection and that this work is also expected to be completed by the end of October.

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You may be interested to know that concept planning work is underway for improvements to the Toowong to St Lucia bikeway. This work will investigate the optimum route and design for the bikeway. I have asked that your request for a coloured threshold treatment near the bus stop west of the Regatta Hotel be considered as part of this review. Unfortunately, I am unable to provide you with a precise timeframe for these proposed works as they will need to be considered in a future budget and in line with other citywide projects of this nature.

I note your request for Council to switch the bikeway and footpath at the Archer Street crossing so that the bikeway is further away from the street. Mr Macbeth tells me that this would require pedestrians and cyclists to cross at some point on the path, which could create an additional conflict point for bikeway users. Further, if cyclists were riding in the space that is currently occupied by pedestrians, visibility approaching Archer Street would be partially obscured by the high stone wall at this location. Therefore, in the interests of safety, it is not proposed to make changes to the bikeway and footpath at this time.

I appreciate your suggestion to raise the bikeway over the road crossing at Archer Street. In principle, your idea has merit, particularly where cycle volumes exceed motor vehicle volumes and I have asked for this to be considered as part of the concept planning and detailed design. However, redevelopment of the former ABC site on the northeast corner of the intersection may result in increased traffic flows on Archer Street, and this would also need to be considered at the concept planning and design stage.

Mr Macbeth has advised that, squaring off the corner to slow down motor vehicles is not practicable at this location. I am told that the radius is already of the order of 5 metres, and that reducing this further is likely to result in motor vehicles, especially larger vehicles, such as trucks, climbing the kerb and encroaching on the footpath. As this would create safety issues for pedestrians, Council is unable to support your request at this time.

I am also advised that, banning motorists from turning left at this location is not practicable as it would unfairly disadvantage residents and property owners on Archer Street. I understand that, with the redevelopment of the ABC site, traffic volumes on Archer Street are expected to increase. As such, it will be necessary to retain access for both left-in and left-out traffic.

With regard to your comments about the variation in speed limits on Coronation Drive, Archer Street and Glen Road, I can advise that Council places speed limit signs on roads in accordance with guidelines set by the Queensland Government's Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR), which are based on Australian standards. These guidelines determine the speed limit that best suits the road environment. Given that Coronation Drive is a major traffic corridor, carrying high volumes of traffic, including buses, freight and heavy vehicles, a speed limit of 60km/h is considered appropriate along this route. Archer Street and Glen Road are classified as local roads servicing areas that are mainly residential in nature. As such, a lower speed limit of 40km/h is considered safe and appropriate for these roads.

I appreciate your feedback about Council's recent upgrades to the Bicentennial Bikeway and can advise that works are progressing well on future stages. I certainly share your enthusiasm for the benefits this bikeway brings to Brisbane's cycling network. As you would know, it is a strong priority of Council to encourage more people to leave their cars at home and take up active and healthy transport alternatives.

Should you wish to find out more about this project, simply visit Council's website at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and type 'Bicentennial Bikeway Upgrade' in the search box. Alternatively, you may wish to contact the project team directly on 1800 727 923.

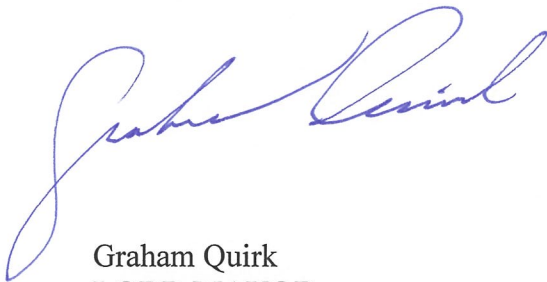
I note your comments about some of the markings and symbols near the bus stop west of the Regatta Hotel and appreciate that they may have faded over time. As such, I have asked Mr Shaun Chandler from TPS to arrange for the pavement markings and symbols to be repainted and am advised that this work is expected to also be completed by the end of October.

I note your suggestion to change the road rules so that motorists are required to give way to cyclists on the footpath and must explain that road rules in relation to cyclists and motorists are the responsibility of DTMR. Further, I can advise that the use of 'shark's teeth' symbols on roads, including Coronation Drive, is also a matter that comes under the jurisdiction of DTMR, rather than Council. Therefore, I have written to the Honourable Scott Emerson MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads, on your behalf, asking him to consider your comments and provide a response to you directly.

I trust this information is helpful. Should you wish to discuss cycling issues in more detail, please contact Mr Macbeth on 3403 8888. I can assure you that Council will continue to work closely with cycling organisations such as Brisbane CBD BUG and the Queensland Police, DTMR and RACQ to maintain safety on Brisbane's roads and cycleways.

Thank you, once again, for writing to me and for your organisation's ongoing commitment to cycling safety.

Yours sincerely



Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR

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