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Dr Richard Bean
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD Bicycle User Group
Convenors@cdbdbug.org.au

Dear Dr Bean

Thank you for your email of 29 March 2016 about the tragic death of a cyclist following an incident on the Go Between Bridge and your suggestions for safety improvements.

Like you, I want roads and bikeways across Brisbane to be as safe as possible for all users and I appreciate you taking the time to raise your concerns. I asked Mr Antony Holloway from Council's Transport Planning and Strategy branch to investigate and understand he spoke with you on 13 April.

Council values our strong partnership with Brisbane's BUGs to improve safety for cyclists, both on and off road, and provide better facilities to ultimately get more people out of their cars and onto a bike.

As you point out, the circumstances of the incident are currently unknown, however, I understand the Office of the State Coroner is investigating. I can assure you that Council will review the findings of the Coroner to determine if any further improvements could be made to our active transport network. In the interim, I asked Mr Holloway to investigate the specific safety issues you have identified.

I appreciate your comments about the design of the section pathway outside the Spice Apartments construction site, on the Montague Road end of the Go Between Bridge. I was concerned to hear the temporary fence from the construction site is causing issues. I can advise Mr Rick Prestwidge Engineering Officer, Development Assessment Engineering Services, investigated the matter further.

During his site inspection on 5 April, Mr Prestwidge instructed the site foreman to remove the concrete supports attached to the temporary site boundary fence from the concrete bike pathway. I am pleased to advise that a follow up inspection conducted later the same day confirmed the supports had been removed from the bikeway.

As Mr Holloway discussed with you, once the development has been completed, Council intends to make further improvements to the path, including widening the pathway. These works, in combination with the removal of temporary fencing will improve sight lines and create a safer environment for path users.

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In relation to the safety audit, I asked Mr Gregg Buyers from Council's City Projects Office for advice. I can confirm that, before the opening of the Go Between Bridge, a comprehensive safety audit as per Ausroads requirements was completed. The review found that the bridge was designed to the standards at the time of construction and did not indicate any issues with the bikeway treatments.

I acknowledge your concerns about the rough surface of pathway. The bikeway has been treated with anti-slip material. While I understand the anti-slip material is not as smooth as bare asphalt or concrete, the treatment provides additional safety benefits.

Mr Holloway advises me that you have identified a number of locations where additional maintenance may be required and you agreed to provide specific locations to him. I can assure you that once this information is received, Council will investigate if additional maintenance or improvements could be made. I would encourage you to provide this information as soon as possible.

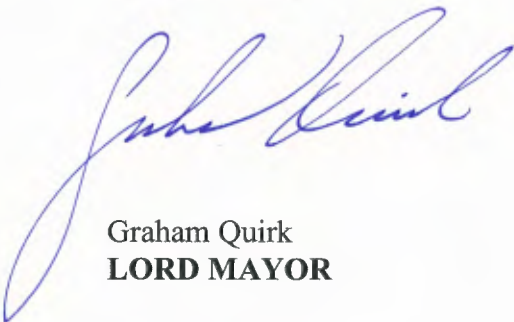
I was also concerned to hear about the rocks adjacent to the path on the northern side of the Go Between Bridge. Council intends to install a bicycle friendly hand rail along the edge of the path to ensure that a cyclist cannot stray onto the rocky section.

I anticipate that all the above mentioned works will be carried out in the 2016/17 financial year.

If you have any further questions about these matters, please call Mr Holloway on 3403 8888.

Thank you for contacting me.

Yours sincerely



Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR

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