



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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Mr Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane Central District Bicycle User Group
CBD BUG
GPO Box 2104
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr French

Thank you for your letter of 5 May 2017 on behalf of Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) about the Brisbane Metro project.

I appreciate CBD BUG providing feedback on the project in relation to cyclist provisions and connections as part of Brisbane Metro. These issues are being investigated as part of ongoing work on the Brisbane Metro project.

As you are aware, Victoria Bridge will become a 'green' bridge with private vehicles removed and road space dedicated to Brisbane Metro and bus services. While access to this river crossing for cyclists will be maintained, the exact configuration of the bridge is yet to be confirmed.

In examining current pedestrian and cyclist movements and considering impacts to access and safety as a result of the project, it is very clear that pedestrian volumes are very high and need to be prioritised in any changes. According to available data, 725 cyclists use Victoria Bridge on an average weekday over a 14 hour period. Of this, 418 cyclists use the shared paths and 307 use the road. In contrast, over 18,000 pedestrians use the bridge each day. As a result, the most effective active travel use of the limited available bridge space is as a shared facility between pedestrians and cyclists.

Similarly, any changes required to cyclist and pedestrian access at North Quay, Adelaide Street and Melbourne Street are also being investigated as part of the business case. Council acknowledges that the pedestrian crossing of North Quay in the western side of Victoria Bridge will be removed as part of the project. This is essential to ensure the Brisbane Metro is segregated from general traffic and active transport. Access to Queen Street will be via Adelaide Street.

The project plans you refer to as being available at the information sessions were for consultation purposes only, with detailed design subject to future stages of project planning.

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One of the benefits of Brisbane Metro is its ability to use existing busway infrastructure which will allow the project to be delivered cost-effectively with less construction impacts to the wider community while still providing a solution to the bus network capacity challenges. It will also allow Brisbane Metro and bus services to run on a dedicated route, segregated from general vehicle traffic which will allow the project to achieve its aims of cutting travel times and improving reliability.

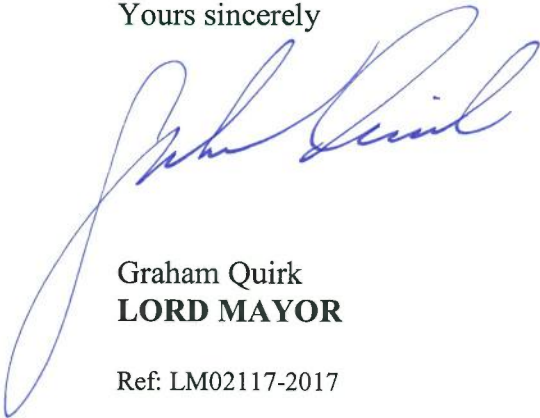
Brisbane Metro will provide many wider city-shaping benefits such as improved Central Business District (CBD) amenity due to the reduction of buses going through the CBD. The project will also increase connectivity between important precincts and large patronage generators such as universities, hospitals and the CBD.

As you are aware, a new state-of-the-art underground station at the Cultural Centre will also be delivered as part of the project. This will provide an uninterrupted connection between the South East Busway and Victoria Bridge for both Brisbane Metro services as well as bus services. Council recognises the importance of the Cultural Centre precinct and has identified that the introduction of Brisbane Metro provides an opportunity to improve the public space in this area. These opportunities will continue to be investigated as part of the project's development.

If you have any further questions, feedback or would like to sign up to receive project updates, please contact the Brisbane Metro project team on 1800 692 333 or by emailing metro@brisbane.qld.gov.au.

Thank you for contacting me about this matter.

Yours sincerely



Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR

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