



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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The Right Honourable Graham Quirk
Lord Mayor of Brisbane
GPO Box 2287
BRISBANE QLD 4001
Via email to: lord.mayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Lord Mayor

I refer to the Alice St / Edward St Bridge at the City Botanic Gardens that is one of the five signature projects, promised during the 2016 Brisbane City Council election.

I write to you now to convey the deep concerns held by the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) about the lack of consultation to date on the proposed design of this bridge, and that Council is about to repeat a previous mistake of not meaningfully consulting, and/or at all, with cyclist advocacy groups. With our previous experience of poorly designed cycleways due to Council not consulting with stakeholders until after contracts for construction had been awarded. We view the provision of early input into Council projects as critical to their success.

During April 2017, the CBD BUG contacted the design team asking to see schematic plans so we could provide early feedback. At that time, the CBD BUG was advised the preliminary plans would be made publically available from mid-2017. However, as of January 2018 there are no plans published on the Brisbane City Council website.

Subsequently, the CBD BUG has become aware these plans were presented as part of a presentation to the Active and Public Transport Committee and has seen a copy of this presentation. The CBD BUG now has the following concerns with the design.

1. The plans presented do not show how the proposed Alice/Edward St bridge would interact with the long needed and many times promised Kangaroo Point to Edward St (CBD) pedestrian/cyclist bridge. Considering the Kangaroo Point to CBD bridge is in many Council documents its omission from these plans is perplexing to say the least.
2. The CBD BUG understands Council was presented with a plan by ARUP that broke the 90 degree turn from the Boardwalk up to the Gardens into two more gentle 45 degree turns. However, it appears that Council officers have dispensed with this approach and instead designed it with effectively one 90 degree bend. One of reasons presented to the committee for this change was "Curve assists in controlling speed". It is highly disappointing that Council officers are still using such outdated concepts. As the CBD BUG understands it, current thinking is that paths should be a straight as possible to avoid conflict and to ensure an individual on a bicycle can monitor their surrounds instead of the path surface itself.
3. The design of a sharp bend also ignores the concept of desire lines. This is particularly important now that the proposed bridge will be linked to the proposed Botanic Gardens public moorings. Human nature is to always find the most direct path, placing tight bends

into the design mean both people walking and riding will by human nature cut the corner and create the potential for conflict.

As always, the CBD BUG wants to work constructively with council to ensure cycling infrastructure is designed to ensure the best outcome for all. Unfortunately, this will not occur if the community groups are left in the dark until designs are nearing their final stages.

In view of these highlighted deficiencies in Council's current design for this project, we call on Council to immediately publish these plans and seek public input.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Campbell', written in a cursive style.

Donald Campbell
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
25 January 2018

Cc:

Vicki Howard – BCC Councilor – Central Ward

Grace Grace – Qld State MP - McConnel

Anne Savage, Chief Executive Officer, Bicycle Queensland

Cr Councillor Peter Cumming, Leader of the Opposition in Council