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20 December 2021

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

Dear Mr French

Thank you for your email of 23 October 2021 about Council's management of footpath closures and its impact on cyclists and pedestrians.

Council is committed to balancing the needs of all roadway users as part of the assessment process for both footway and roadway closures, while enabling the infill development of the city and surrounding suburbs.

I appreciate your suggestion for the use of hoarding and gantries rather than full footpath closures to be a requirement rather than a guideline. While Council's Construction Management Guidelines - CBD and City Frame (the Guidelines), state that full footpath closures are not permitted, sometimes footpath closures are unavoidable due to the site restrictions, street trees, and/or safety. For this reason, Council is unable to make alternatives to footpath closures a requirement on all occasions. I have taken the liberty of attaching a copy of these guidelines, which are also available on Council's website at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au by searching 'planning guidelines'.

These guidelines have been communicated to the wider construction industry through pre-lodgement meetings and notices on development approvals, direct email message and industry forums. While Council aims to meet the guideline requirements, if a footpath closure is unavoidable, then the use of hoarding and gantries is a possible solution.

There are also several other guidelines within this document which are sought to reduce the impacts of developments on the surrounding road users, including cyclists. Each site is assessed on its merits and unique site restrictions. If a footpath is to be impacted, Council aims to maintain a pedestrian pathway past the development or have sufficient controls in place so any impact is minimised.

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I acknowledge your request for Council to consider wider public notifications for footway closures. I can advise large developments that require significant footway closures and impact a high number of commuters/pedestrians are required to be advertised, with pre-closure signage to be installed to notify the general public of the proposed closures.

Council currently does not require the advertisement of footpath closure permits for localised closures. As footpath closures are dependent on the stage of works onsite, and may be open and closed depending on needs, it would be challenging to ensure consistent messaging of the status of the closure. Furthermore, any footpath closure will have a localised pedestrian management plan in place to ensure pedestrian traffic occurs safely around the site.

I can advise that the approval of a Construction Management Plan (CMP) currently does not require any public notification. All pedestrian and cyclist movements and diversions are considered as part of the CMP approval process and any diversion proposed and approved needs to be compliant with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. The impact on all pedestrians and cyclists is to be kept to a minimum in all cases.

For some larger projects, Council may require that a development advertise upcoming closures through the development conditions of approval and/or the CMP process. During the construction of the development, Council officers may liaise with the developer about the impacts on the surrounding community, ensuring relevant mitigation means are undertaken if required.

I would also like to assure you that your feedback has been noted by the relevant areas of Council for consideration as part of any review of the guidelines in the future. If you have further questions, please contact Mr Alex King, Senior Engineering Officer, Development Services, on 3178 5087.

Thank you for raising this matter. I also take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe Christmas and a successful New Year in 2022.

Yours sincerely



Krista Adams
DEPUTY MAYOR
For Adrian Schrinner
LORD MAYOR

The Lord Mayor is currently away from the office and has asked that I sign on this occasion to avoid further delay.

Ref: LM04352-2021

Att.