



**Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
(CBD BUG)**

GPO Box 2104, Brisbane 4001

brisbanecbdbug@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/cbdbug/

Cr Ryan Murphy
Civic Cabinet Chair of Transport
Brisbane City Council
GPO Box 1434
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email: Chair_PAT@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Cr Murphy

The CBD BUG is writing to you regarding the dilapidated state of the CityLink Cycleway, the continuing damage to the pavement surface and its future extension into Fortitude Valley (the valley) as mentioned in the Brisbane City Council meeting on the 15th November 2022 (Figure 1).

Becoming Permanent

The CBD BUG was very pleased to hear that the CityLink Cycleway along Elizabeth and Edward St is to become a permanent part of the CBD street scape. We were also pleased to hear works will be conducted (not out of the bikeway budget) to give the lanes an appearance consistent with any other road infrastructure. While we understand this will take some time the CBD BUG would appreciate an update on works that are to occur and what the timeline of works will be.

Damage to pavement surface

The CBD BUG is very concerned about the current state of the Elizabeth St section of CityLink (Figure 2). Despite its relatively short presence, the entire length of the protected bikelane has already become dilapidated - it now being covered in a series of patches where the pavement surface has been removed and then reinstated (following ground works). None of these patches are flush and/or smooth with the surrounding pavement surface - resulting in a poor and unsafe ride quality. Some of these patches are so bad they are likely to cause a person to crash if they are unaware of the uneven surface. With their smaller wheels, scooter riders are at particular risk, and to avoid these patch hazards some riders are swerving into the path of oncoming riders.

Regardless of which entity is responsible for these patches, they should be obligated to reinstate a surface to the same quality as the previous state. The current patch work nature of the lanes is resulting in a substandard bikelane that gives the impression the health and safety of people on bicycles (and scooters) are not valued by Brisbane City Council.

However, this is not the first time the CityLink Cycleways have been left in a substandard condition following ground works. Accordingly, it appears BCC needs to also be more detailed in its surface repair work specifications, along with being more diligent in inspecting repairs and then acting to ensure suboptimal repairs are corrected.

Extension into Fortitude Valley.

The CBD BUG was very excited to hear in your address to the BCC chamber on the 15th November 2022 that Brisbane City Council was working with the State Government on agreeing to a funding model to fund design work for Stage 3. It has now been six months since this statement was made and we are keen to know what progress has been made. The CBD BUG wishes to know the progress of the design work and how far these lanes will reach into the Valley from the CBD.

The CBD BUG (as part of Space 4 Cycling Brisbane) has been calling for safe, protected and direct CBD bike lanes since 2015. As you will understand, we do everything we can to promote and praise the benefits of the bike lanes to the CBD users and businesses. That said the benefits cannot be fully realised if the current lanes sit in isolation without further expansion to other streets and localities. Expansion into the Valley combined with lane improvements (as part of upgrading them to permanent lanes) will further improve their utilisation and functionality.

As we saw during the height of the pandemic people are willing and able to jump on a bike or a scooter to get about. The principal factor holding them back is a lack of infrastructure. For this reason, we are excited that protected Citylink Cycleway lanes will be extended into the Valley.

Looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



Donald Campbell
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
22th April 2023

CC

Adrian Schrinner	Lord Mayor of Brisbane
Hon. Mark Bailey	Minister for Transport & Main Roads
Cr Vicki Howard	Councillor for Central Ward
Grace Grace MP	Member for McConnell

Space for Cycling Brisbane
Bicycle Queensland
Queensland Walks

Councillor MURPHY:

Just very briefly, Chair. Look, I acknowledge the contribution to the debate from Councillor SRI and he was critical, I think, more broadly of the program for going too slow. I often am criticised around the city and people will single me out to specifically criticise me for going too fast on this project. So I have a personal experience of what it feels like to be on the other side of that. So I guess we'll just have to agree to split the difference.

But I acknowledge Councillor SRI's broader support for this project, for the CityLink Cycleway and I—we do appreciate it. There are definitely attitudes, values and beliefs around the need for separated cycling infrastructure in this city that do need to change. Often people will criticise the slowdown that CityLink Cycleway causes the traffic network and many discussions that I've had with people, they'll have a go at how long they have to wait at the lights there and I ask them well have they thought of taking a different road? Because there's only two streets within the CBD where this infrastructure is and there's a lot of streets within the CBD that are available for cars. But this is just something that we are working on that will take time to change those values, attitudes and beliefs in Brisbane. I think it's one thing that this side of the Chamber has actually been very good at historically, is taking the people of the City of Brisbane with us on the journey.

Whether it was the journey to build toll tunnels in the CBD or you know major road upgrades that have taken years, as in your ward, Chair. It's balancing that need for change with that pace of change. I think no pace of change will ever be fast enough for Councillor SRI.

Just in terms of the money for future works to make CityLink Cycleway permanent. Those works will be done out of—Councillor MARX's area will be done as BAU (business as usual) work. So there's no capital funding that will be required for that. That will be done on a fairly slow basis, but they will eventually be done. So there will not be any money taken out of capital bikeway construction to deal with that.

The good news for all those who have been interested in following the progress with CityLink Cycleway Stage 1 and 2, is that the State Government and Brisbane City Council are currently in the final stages of negotiating a

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Heads of Agreement around funding for design of Stage 3 of the CityLink Cycleway, which does indeed go into the Valley. So that's good news for all Councillors. Thank you very much, Chair.

Figure 1 – Council Meeting Minutes



Figure 2 - CityLink Cycleway, Elizabeth St, April 2023