



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group – CBD BUG

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The Hon. Paul Lucas MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
GPO Box 2644
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Lucas,

Princess Alexandria Hospital link to busway network

As you may be aware, the CBD BUG is an organisation of city cyclists, representing and articulating the interests of the increasingly large number of Brisbane residents who commute or ride bicycles to, from and within the Central Business District. We have in excess of 300 members, and potentially represent several thousand regular cyclists. CBD BUG was established to:

- monitor CBD cycling facilities;
- provide a resource for CBD commuter cyclists;
- lobby for improvements; and
- act as a network for cycle commuters and other cycle users in the CBD.

The CBD BUG meets regularly to discuss issues of concern and interest to CBD cyclists, including bicycle parking facilities, 'end-of-journey' facilities and the cycling routes to and from the CBD from Brisbane's suburbs.

On 10 July 2007 Premier Beattie announced an early start to work on the Princess Alexandria Hospital (PAH) busway link between the South East Busway, Eastern Busway and the Eleanor Schonell Bridge. We understand that much of this 600m structure will be an elevated bridge crossing Ipswich Road near O'Keefe Street. Given the current and expected future demand for pedestrian and cycle access from the east and south of O'Keefe Street, and the high usage of the South East Bikeway, second only to the Bicentennial Bikeway, the CBD BUG calls on you and your government to ensure funding is provided to ensure that the bridge crossing incorporates a path for pedestrians and another for cyclists with the bus lanes.

Such a decision will ensure that the PAH busway would then be another 'green bridge' for public AND active transport, consistent with a range of far-sighted current planning policies designed to reduce Brisbane's car use and car-dependency and be a far-sighted, pro-active investment of public funds.

Investing in this small addition to the busway will save significant funds on alternative infrastructure, given that it will be necessary to make provision for increasing numbers of cyclists to get from the present bikeway to the PAH and university. Under your government's policy, and the policy of the Brisbane City Council, both walking and cycling are to increase their mode share by a percentage that at this stage is unlikely to be met. Furthermore, your government's *Queensland Cycle Strategy* identifies that:

"integrating cycling into strategic priorities and projects will enable efficient and cost effective delivery of outcomes. It is intended that cycling will be considered at the planning and implementation phases of all future government programs and infrastructure projects that impact upon it" [p.6-7].

However, our research and surveys reveal that lower than desired mode share for cycling is due to inadequate provision for cyclists both on and off road. Increasing pressure on roads from congestion, increasing pressure on household budgets from spiralling fuel costs and public transport fares, will have the effect of shifting commuters onto their bikes, but this alone will not achieve your government's policy goals, nor will it achieve those goals in a manner conducive to positive public perceptions of policy.

We look forward to an announcement in the near future of the inclusion of facilities for cycling and pedestrians on the Ipswich Road busway bridge crossing, and in anticipation of this announcement congratulate the government's actions to ensure that Brisbane does develop as a smart city as it continues to grow.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Paul Murdoch
Co-Convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

19 July 2007

CC: The Hon. Anna Bligh, MP, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure