



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group – CBD BUG

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Mr A J Spink
Project Director
North-South Bypass Tunnel Project
PO Box 3830
SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101

Dear Mr Spink

Re: Replacement South-east Bikeway

I refer to your letter dated 20 December 2007 in which you responded to Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) feedback on the replacement South-east Bikeway.

While the revised concept brief is an improvement on the original, it is viewed as not delivering on the numerous undertakings to cycling representatives that the replacement bikeway would be a significant improvement to the existing bikeway. This is a very poor outcome from the CBD BUG's perspective.

This assessment is based on the fact that the alignment of the replacement section of the bikeway at O'Keefe Street will;

- make the existing section of the bikeway more indirect;
- lengthen journey and wait times; and
- oblige cyclists to negotiate an additional intersection (Carl Street and O'Keefe Street) than was the case prior to the disruption caused by the NSBT's construction.

For cyclists, intersections are high risk areas associated with significant injuries from crashes with motor vehicles. This view is reinforced by the knowledge that adding another intersection crossing and creating a more indirect route for the existing section of the bikeway markedly contrasts with the outcomes for motorists arising from the NSBT, promoted as reducing deficiencies in Brisbane's urban road network. In fact, the CBD BUG's view is that the best connection between the replacement bikeway section with the existing section would have been via an overpass across O'Keefe Street, meaning cyclists would have no longer had to cross this busy thoroughfare.

In view of the inferior outcome for cyclists at the southern end of the NSBT works the CBD BUG is now intent on ensuring this is not repeated on Brisbane's north side. The CBD BUG's view on the root cause of this outcome is that consultation on the design of the replacement bikeway was not conducted earlier enough to ensure cyclists' needs were appropriately incorporated into the final design.

Accordingly, an immediate meeting is sought with the NSBT staff planning the replacement bikeway near the northern end of the tunnel. In order to make arrangements for this meeting please contact John Lister via telephone on 3831 7882 or 0428 667 827, or Aaron Wray via telephone on 0418 786 074 or email to aaron_wray@hotmail.com.

Notwithstanding the CBD BUG's objection to the final concept design, the following elements have now also been identified for incorporation into the detailed plan for the bikeway's new O'Keefe St signalised crossing:

1. signals for both pedestrians and cyclists;
2. signals to be timed so users can cross in a single phase;
3. construction to physically prevent drivers performing u-turns at this point; and
4. ensure appropriate sight lines for crossing users in light of substantial on-street parking in O'Keefe St.

Furthermore, the intersection of Carl and O'Keefe Streets will require additional treatment to make this crossing point safer for cyclists.

Finally, at the meeting with LBBJV staff on 24 January 2008 the CBD BUG was informed the timeframe for reinstating the O'Keefe St to Park Rd section of the bikeway had now been set back to April/May 2008, while the timeframe for reinstating the Park Rd to Lockhart St section of the bikeway is now "2009".

The CBD BUG's view is that it is unacceptable for the final bikeway reinstatement timeframe to be this indefinite and that the LBBJV has an obligation to stakeholders in this issue to provide a more definite timeframe.

I would remind you of the LBBJV's negative reaction to a CBD BUG leaflet distributed before the bikeway detours were implemented, which suggested the SE Bikeway would be detoured for up three years. At that time the LBBJV indicated the duration of the detour would only be 18 months. However, on the basis of the 2009 timeframe this now indicates the final completion timeframe could be three years.

Yours faithfully



Paul French
Co-convenor
Central Business District Bicycle User Group

31 January 2008

cc Scott Evans, Program Officer, Active Transport Unit, Brisbane City Council
David Saltwell, President, EastBug
Robyn Davies, Traffic Engineering and Road Safety, Department of Main Roads
Ben Wilson, General Manager, Bicycle Queensland