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# MEDIA RELEASE

## Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group CBD BUG

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### **Northside cyclists slam Council over lack of ‘consultation’**

Brisbane’s grass-roots cycling advocacy group has spoken out about the Brisbane City Council’s recently unveiled plans for upgrading the Bridge Street overpass in Albion. The Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) says that the lack of proper consultation on these types of projects is staggering.

“The CBD BUG has been offering to help Brisbane City Council with the design of this intersection since funding was announced” said Aaron Ball, spokesperson for the CBD BUG, “but as usual Council’s idea of ‘consultation’ is to announce the final design and call this announcement ‘consultation’”.

Aaron Ball said “the overall effect of the proposal is to make a dangerous zone with fast traffic even more hazardous, with even faster traffic. Some of the suggestions BCC has made might be workable as part of an integrated plan, but the proposal as it stands needs a lot more work to ensure safety for all road users. These issues could have been resolved if BCC had undertaken proper consultation. The lack of consultation on this design is even more astounding given that this corridor is one of few cycling routes connecting the northside to the CBD, and has been identified and acknowledged for future improvement in this regard”.

The CBD BUG is concerned that the design funnels cyclists into the most dangerous part of the Albion-Woolloowin “Death Corridor”: along Dickson Street where cars are freely allowed to park in both bike lanes, forcing cyclists out into the fast moving stream of motor vehicle traffic to avoid the “door zone”.

“There’s a lot of heavy vehicles along that route, including the concrete trucks from the Windsor plants in McDonald Road”, Aaron Ball said. It’s only a matter of time before there’s yet another fatality in Brisbane because of a lack of safe routes.”

Aaron Ball said that many cyclists currently ride along Hudson Street and Adamson Street, to avoid this dangerous section. However, the banning of right turns will make this illegal.

The CBD BUG is also concerned about the adverse effects for local residents. “This so-called ‘upgrade’ is a backward step for local residents. It will further diminish connectivity for locals who want to walk or need to drive, and will just shift the traffic problems up to the next bridge at Fraser Street” Aaron Ball said.

“Banning right turns will no doubt increase the heavy amount of traffic through this residential area” Aaron Ball said. “This type of planning has effectively legitimised a back-street rat-run, turning it into a main road, despite funding that was supposed to be allocated to rejuvenate this neighbourhood as part of the Airport Link project.”

**Ends**

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