



25 August 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group CBD BUG

www.cbdbug.org.au

Cyclists call for protected bike lanes – Sylvan Rd Toowong

Brisbane cyclists are calling for Sylvan Road at Toowong to be upgraded by Brisbane City Council with protected bike lanes. The current conditions of on road bike lanes are simply unsafe with the CBD BUG revealing that 25% of all city-bound traffic during the morning peak travel period on Sylvan Road are cyclists. Cyclists being sandwiched (in the door zone) between parked and moving vehicles is simply not tenable with these kinds of volumes. Sylvan Road forms part of the Main Western Corridor for bicycle traffic in Brisbane, but does nothing to live up to those expected standards. Cyclists are so concerned that 5 members of the CBD BUG attended Sylvan Rd on Thursday to count traffic volumes during the peak morning travel period.

For years Sylvan Rd has been suggested as a prime corridor for protected bike lanes. However, so far Council has yet to act. As recently as 2011 the Brisbane City Council had the chance to act on this call when the road was resurfaced, however only minor works were undertaken, with many cyclists regarding the changes as making conditions significantly less safe. This left many cyclists wondering why the council even choose to list it as a bikeway project when the outcome was so poor.

These events prompted CBD BUG co-convenor Donald Campbell earlier this year to initiate a BCC e-petition calling for the installation of protected bike lanes for Sylvan Rd. Donald stated "I requested the petition because I was disgusted with the condition of the bike lanes for such an important corridor! With regard to the response, I have been blown away! It is three times what I expected. To get over 650 signatures and still going, is really heartening and shows the community's depth of feeling about this dangerous corridor."

With the deadline of the e-petition approaching CBD BUG members descended on Sylvan Rd to count traffic volumes, and the results tell the story. The count location was the corner of Sylvan Rd and Earle Ln. A staggering 25% of all inbound traffic were cyclists. Of the 75% that made up the inbound motor traffic approximately 50% entered from Croydon and Jephson St, This means between Milton Rd and Jephson St, cyclists account for 40% of the inbound traffic along Sylvan Rd. Even outbound, cyclists made up approximately 20% of all traffic. The most telling indicator that the current bike lanes are not perceived to be safe is the disappointing low female bicycle rider percentage. Women made up just 10% of all inbound cyclists recorded. This is approximately a 40% drop in female participation compared with the nearby Bicentennial Bikeway which records a 16% female rider share. "We know if conditions are not safe women won't ride, and Sylvan Rd highlights this perfectly" said Donald Campbell.

He went on to say that Brisbane City Council needs to pull its head out of the sand and act now to provide protected bike lanes along Sylvan Rd. The low female percentage, the high bicycle volume are all indicators that bike lanes (in the door zone) between parked and moving vehicles are no longer adequate along this corridor. It is time for Brisbane City council to install protected bike lanes along Sylvan Rd to improve the amenity and safety for all riders. If this many people ride along Sylvan Rd already, cycling participation (particularly women) would inevitably increase with protected bike lanes.

The CBD BUG would like to sincerely thank: Anna Foeglein, Ben Hiley, Matt Goudie and Shaun Moran for their assistance.

Ends

Protected Bike Lanes – Sylvan Road Toowong
<http://www.epetitions.brisbane.qld.gov.au/petition/view/pid/168>

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