



Brisbane CBD BUG

General Meeting

Minutes

Wed, 23 Nov 2011
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Tiered Theatre, Brisbane Square

Attendance

Chair: Paul French

Minutes: Ian Lister

Attendees: Aaron Ball, Paul French, Daniel Graham, Kate Gubesch, Chris Hindy, Lisa Jensen, Ainslie Just, Michael Langdon, Ian Lister, John Lister, Paul Martin, Shaun Moran, Paul Murdoch, Paul Ruberry, Darren Tracey, and three others

Apologies: Stephen Amos, Donald Campbell, Helen Sutherland
Thanks for letting us know.

Previous meeting

Paul French reported Kate Gubesch and Raymond Logan have volunteered to work on campaigning for better cycling infrastructure to the eastern suburbs of Brisbane. It's early days yet and the first steps are working out what is needed.

John Lister requested that the slides from Paul Martin's presentation be more prominently available on the web site. Ian Lister agreed to publish an article on the blog drawing attention to them.

Action Items	Who	Deadline
✓ Publish more prominent link to Paul's slides	Ian Lister	21 December 2011

Reports

Northern Veloway leafleting

John Lister described the plans for handing out flyers to cyclists at key locations on the north side on the mornings of Saturday, 26 November and Thursday, 1 December. The weekday morning is targeted at existing commuter cyclists, and the weekend at those who currently cycle for recreation but might also cycle to the city for work or other purposes if there was a safe way to do so. John passed around the draft flyers. The planned locations are Downfall Creek, Kedron Brook, Roma Street Parklands near the Normanby underpass, the RBWH cycle centre, Breakfast Creek bridge, and Le Geyt Street. The aim is to have two people at each location, so some more volunteers are still required.

Action Items	Who	Deadline
✓ Contact JL to volunteer. john@cbdbug.org.au	Members	25 November 2011

Northern Veloway Right to Information request

Paul French reported that the BUG has submitted a Right to Information application to the Department of Transport and Main Roads for information on their plans for the Northern Veloway. The broad scope of the application means that it covers an estimated 8000 pages of material. The department has notified us it will reject the application on this basis, but we are continuing to negotiate with them on what can be released.

Paul Murdoch noted from his personal experience that processing RTI requests can indeed be time-consuming, and in many cases requests can be narrowed or information released by a less formal process, but it is the responsibility of the departmental officers to find a suggest ways that this might occur. Paul also suggested the BUG should canvas its membership for those with legal experience that could help when dealing with issues of law.

Aaron Ball moved that Paul French be reimbursed the \$39 application fee. The motion was seconded by Ian Lister, and passed unanimously.

Go Between Bridge crossing lights

Paul French mentioned that Ian Lister had raised with Brisbane City Council issues with the timing and default red on several of the pedestrian and cycle crossing lights near the southern end of the Go Between Bridge. Ian said he hoped that some small wins on straightforward issues might help pave the way for a broader push for crossings and signals to be made more equitable for pedestrians and cyclists, and for priority to be given to pedestrians and cyclists in areas such as the CBD.

John Lister mentioned he had recently raised similar issues at a meeting with Cr Margaret de Wit and Council's head of Brisbane Infrastructure, Barry Broe. John reported Mr Broe was opposed to making changes to signals and thought pedestrians should just cross on a red light if there was no motor traffic around rather than waiting for the lights to change.

Ivory Lane path closure

Ian Lister reported Council had advised him that morning of the imminent reopening of the path between Ivory Lane and the Story Bridge. Sufficient works have been done to stabilise the rock retaining wall that was threatening the path, but more serious foundation work will be needed in the medium term, and this will likely necessitate a closure of several months. At this stage Council did not think it would be possible to wait until Riverwalk was rebuilt, but would try to do that if possible.

Paul French acknowledged Donald Campbell's work dealing with the closure, and Cr David Hinchliffe's very quick response in attending the site and investigating the issue with Council after learning of the closure from our media release.

LUPTAI

Ian Lister reported he and John Lister had recently met with staff from the Department of Transport and Main Roads to get an introduction to their Land Use and Public Transport Accessibility Index (LUPTAI) tool, to which they are adding support for measuring the cycling accessibility of an area. The model is based on time and attractiveness weighting factors for different kinds of route in the road and path network, and the department was looking at ways of validating their factors and the model. Ian and John had been able to provide several suggestions, and members added a few more to pass back.

Running events on shared paths

Numerous mass participation running events (such as the recent Cool Night Classic) have increasingly been impacting on major inner city bike paths and bridges, some of them at peak times. Often the BUG does not receive advance warning of them and, although the paths are supposed to remain open for all users, members reported that at key locations such as the Goodwill Bridge there is often a pile-up of cyclists and pedestrians, and that it can take 15 minutes to get across the stream of runners.

Paul French commented that part of the problem is that the police refuse to allow the running events to use roads, and both cyclists and runners suffer from being considered less important than cars, as discussed in Steve Manning's editorial in the November 2011 newsletter from event organiser Intraining.

Paul Murdoch noted BCC does not consider key bike and pedestrian routes such as the botanic gardens and Goodwill Bridge to be a significant traffic corridor. This is also shown in the fact that event organisers are required to produce a traffic management plan for each event, but that this doesn't actually cover anything other than car parking.

Action Items	Who	Deadline
✓ Raise with BCC that they need to take pedestrian and cycle traffic disruption on shared paths more seriously.	Paul French	21 December 2011

Gray Street closure

Paul French reported Donald Campbell had recently raised the issue of closing the end of Gray Street, New Farm, which has been proposed by local residents to reduce rat running. It's unclear whether there is much chance of the idea getting traction, but there are a number of influential residents who have started a petition. Donald had expressed concern about the impact a closure would have on cyclists, as this is an important route to avoid busy traffic and the bus route on Merthyr Road. Paul Murdoch noted that we should be able to ensure that any closure would not prevent passage by cyclists, and that the BUG should support the proposal. He pointed out that experience from cities such as Copenhagen shows that changes like this are an important way to reduce the competitiveness of the private motor vehicle for inappropriate short trips in inner city areas. Aaron Ball moved that the BUG support the proposal, Paul seconded it, and it was passed unanimously.

Review of the Australian Road Rules

Paul French discussed the National Transport Commission's current review of the Australian Road Rules, on which the Queensland Road Rules (and those of other states and territories) are based, and of the Australian Vehicle Standards Rules. He said he would prepare a submission for the BUG, and asked members to send ideas and feedback to him for incorporation in the submission. Members are also strongly encouraged to make their own submissions supporting

Paul Martin said one issue that should be raised is that pedelec standards should be brought in line with those in Europe, to allow Australians access to a much wider range of models.

Action Items	Who	Deadline
✓ Prepare and circulate draft submission	Paul French	2 December 2011
✓ Send feedback to Paul paulf@cdbug.org.au	Members	9 December 2011
✓ Make CBD BUG submission to NTC	Paul French	16 December 2011
✓ Make individual submissions to NTC enquiries@ntc.gov.au	Members	16 December 2011

Next meeting

Wednesday 21 December 2011, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm.

All meetings this year are in the tiered theatre, Brisbane Square.