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30 October 2017

Mr Donald Campbell
Co-convenor
Central Business District Bicycle User Group
GPO Box 2104
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Campbell

Thank you for your emails of 28 and 29 September 2017 on behalf of the Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) about the Brisbane Metro project.

I appreciate CBD BUG's concerns regarding cyclist provisions on Victoria Bridge as part of the project and I note your comments about current cyclist figures.

As part of the design and planning phase for Brisbane Metro, Council reviewed the function, capacity and usage of the inner-city bridges as well as projected growth in cyclist numbers. The Goodwill and Kurilpa bridges both provide high quality, purpose built and designed pedestrian and cycle facilities which connect the primary cycle routes of Brisbane's bicycle network overlay across the Brisbane River.

In comparison, the Victoria Bridge was designed in 1952 primarily as a road bridge. Today, higher standards are expected of new, purpose built infrastructure and as the pathways on Victoria Bridge have limitations due to their width and their structural design, it is not considered an exemplar facility for pedestrians and cyclists.

To facilitate the introduction of Brisbane Metro, Council has identified reallocating space on Victoria Bridge as the most cost-effective solution to achieving the project's objectives. As the configuration of the bridge is constrained by the limited width, Council is proposing to install two lanes for Brisbane Metro and South East Busway services in the centre of the bridge, with lanes either side for other bus services.

The ability for cyclists and pedestrians to cross Victoria Bridge on the pathways on the sides of the bridge will be retained through the project. On the upstream side, the shared pathway will remain and on the downstream side, cyclists can cross the river by dismounting and walking across. In addition, the downstream pathway will be widened by 1.2 metres to accommodate predicted future growth in pedestrian numbers. This widening is achieved through a narrowing of existing traffic lanes on the bridge and correspondingly extending the pedestrian pathway within the existing bridge width.

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Expanding the overall width of the bridge to provide separated cycle and pedestrian provisions would require significant structural works with significant capital costs. As mentioned, this is due to the limitations of the existing bridge structure and the challenges of constructing new over and in-river infrastructure.

As noted in your letter, existing pedestrian counts on Victoria Bridge are very high and demonstrate this is the primary pedestrian river crossing in the city. I note your comments about the Department of Transport and Main Roads' *South East Queensland Principal Cycle Network Plan* and can advise the plan is intended to support, guide and inform the planning, design and construction of the transport network. While the plan identifies Victoria Bridge as a priority route for delivery, the Queensland Government is yet to confirm a timeframe or funding for this investment. Under Council's *Brisbane City Plan 2014*, Victoria Bridge is classed as a secondary cycle route.

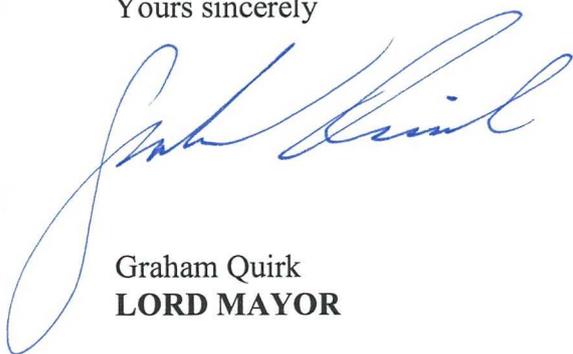
I can assure you Council continues to work closely with the Queensland Government and a range of stakeholders regarding all aspects of Brisbane Metro, including pedestrian and cyclist access to Victoria Bridge.

Council is currently developing a Concept Design and Impact Management Plan (CDIMP) for Brisbane Metro. The CDIMP will assess the project's potential environmental, social and economic benefits and impacts, and outline how these will be managed. As part of this, Council will provide further opportunities for stakeholders and the community to provide feedback, which will further inform planning for Brisbane Metro.

For more information on the upcoming CDIMP consultation, or for any other questions on the project, I encourage you to contact the Brisbane Metro project team on 1800 692 333 or via metro@brisbane.qld.gov.au.

Thank you for contacting me.

Yours sincerely



Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR

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