



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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The Right Honourable Cr Adrian Schrinner
Lord Mayor of Brisbane
GPO Box 2287
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email to: lord.mayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au

Dear Lord Mayor

NEW STANLEY ST/ANNERLEY RD INTERSECTION SERIOUS ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

I am writing to draw your attention to our serious concerns with the changed traffic arrangements at the intersection of Annerley Rd and Stanley St as part of the Woolloongabba Bikeway.

We wholeheartedly support the bikeway. However, we have several concerns with it that we will compile later, but this issue is so serious we consider it warrants a separate letter. We call upon you to address it immediately.

The safety concern is with arrangement of the eastbound traffic lanes at the Stanley St approach to Annerley Rd. There are two lanes. The kerbside lane is a shared through lane and right turn into Annerley Rd. The inner lane turns right. With the changed signalling sequence, vehicles turning right can be met with a red signal, while those heading straight through are presented with a green signal. Two adjacent right turning vehicles at the head of the queue will block through traffic in the kerbside lane.

Our problem is if the blocking vehicle in the kerbside lane happens to be a bicycle. It is conceivable that a cyclist turning right from the kerbside traffic lane might not be observed by a through travelling driver whose focus is on the green through light. This is currently the cause of traffic crashes in other parts of the city. It is easy to imagine in the evening the rear lights of a bicycle might blend into the general light distractions of streetlights, the hotel opposite, and other lighting in the area. Our concern is that someone in this position could be struck from behind by a through running driver not expecting a stationary bike rider.

The reason a bicycle rider is likely to use the carriageway to turn right is that under the current signalling, it takes two signal phases for someone riding eastbound to reach the separated bikelane on the south side of Stanley St. Under the previous layout with the pedestrian crossing on the eastern approach to the intersection, it was only a single phase crossing. It can also be more convenient for someone who wishes to ride south on Annerley Rd, either to avoid a potential wait at the Mater Hill pedestrian signal further south, or because they have missed the combined bikeway pedestrian crossing phase at Stanley St, or because their destination is between the two signals.

We therefore call upon you to change the traffic signalling to reduce the waiting time for people cycling so they are not discouraged from using the intersection as intended. We also urge you to change it so that the eastbound through movement and the right turn into Annerley Rd are given a green signal at the same time, so no right turning road user is trapped in the kerbside lane with a green through signal.

Rebekka Meyer was killed turning right on her bicycle at this location by a truck driver who did not observe her. We urge you to change the signals to avoid a similar tragedy.

We look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours faithfully

Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
8 July 2019

Cc: Bicycle Queensland
Space4Cycling Brisbane
Cr Jonathan Sri, The Gabba Ward
Cr Peter Cummings, Leader of the Opposition in Council
Cr Jared Cassidy, Opposition Spokesperson on Public Active Transport Committee