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## Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

**CBD BUG**  
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<https://www.facebook.com/cbdbug/>

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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](mailto:lord.mayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Dear Lord Mayor

The CBD BUG would first of all congratulate you on your successful campaign and being re-elected the Lord Mayor of Brisbane City.

We are also contacting you regarding the need for Brisbane City Council to provide additional space for residents to exercise/travel while still observing social distancing.

During this unprecedented time the massive imbalance in Brisbane's infrastructure is evident. After directing billions of dollars into expanding this city's road capacity (despite decades of research proving it to be functionally pointless and economically wasteful) we now have a road network largely devoid of motor traffic.

At the same time Brisbane's footpaths and cycling paths have received a fraction of the investment and are now under significant pressure as the residents of Brisbane try to remain active while the many personal restrictions are in force.

This has resulted in certain active transport corridors being congested and in most cases people being unable to distance themselves from others. Official advice from Queensland Health (Figure 1) is that people should stay 1.5 m away from others whenever practical. This is not possible when the standard footpath width is only 1200 mm. For this reason cities throughout the world have been implementing a number of measures to allow their residents to practice social distancing. These have included, but are not limited to:

1. Closing local streets to through motor traffic
2. Widening footpaths with temporary construction over kerbside parking
3. Closing kerbside parking bays so people can walk/jog/run/ride away from others on the footpath
4. Implementation of cheap and simple popup bikelanes along road corridors utilising off the shelf plastic dividers and flexi-poles.

"World cities" that have adopted such measures include New York, Auckland, Berlin, Denver, Oakland, Winnipeg etc. New Zealand has become the first country to use "tactical urbanism" to take road space from cars and give it to people walking and cycling to keep people moving safely during lockdown. New Zealand Transport Minister Julie Anne Genter stated: "We can trial things in a low-cost way and make that part of the consultation, so people and businesses can experience what it is like, and make that experience and real-life data gathering part of the consultation to better inform decision making."

We are sure the councillors of Brisbane City Council are very aware of streets that would be suitable for such measures as listed above and have “CCed” them in this email.

Naturally the CBD BUG sees the streets listed in the CBD #minimumgrid as outlined by Space for Cycling Brisbane, as prime candidates in the CBD for “pop-up bikelanes”. Other primary corridors for such treatment include, but are not limited to:

- Sylvan Road, Toowong
- Kedron Brook Road, Wilston
- Grey Street, South Brisbane

The large and sudden increase in the proportion of people working from home has of course been a major contributor to the reduced traffic on the roads each day. This change has shown that solutions to Brisbane’s traffic congestion woes have always been there for the taking if embraced.

The COVID-19 pandemic is fundamentally changing the way we live and as the federal Minister for Education Dan Tehan said on 12 April: “if life gives you lemons you make lemonade”.

This is a prime opportunity to encourage and enable thousands of residents to move in an active way, but more importantly in a way that reduces their risk of contracting this terrible disease. This month, researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health found that a small increase in long-term exposure to air pollution (PM2.5) leads to a large increase in the COVID-19 death rate. Cleaner air in Brisbane will save lives now and in the long term.

We look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours faithfully



Donald Campbell  
Brisbane CBD BUG  
16 April 2020

CC: Bicycle Queensland  
Space for Cycling Brisbane  
Queensland Walks  
Hon. Dr Steve Miles, Qld Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services  
All BCC Councillors

### **There are 5 ways we can all help stop the spread of viruses**

1. Clean your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs.
2. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing.
3. Avoid touching your face, nose and mouth. And avoid shaking hands.
4. Stay home as much as possible, especially if you are sick.
5. Practice social distancing, which includes staying 1.5m away from others as much as you can.

Figure 1 – Queensland Health advice