



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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Councillor Peter Matic
Chairman
BCC Public and Active Transport Committee
GPO Box 1434
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Councillor Matic

The Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) congratulates you on your return to office following the 28 April 2012 Brisbane City Council election, and welcomes the commitment of \$120 million towards bikeway funding over the next four years. The CBD BUG is particularly pleased the new LNP Council intends to focus this spending on a desperately needed commuting network.

For your information, the CBD BUG is a grass roots volunteer organisation of more than 700 members, representing the interests of the very large number of Brisbane residents who ride bicycles to, from and within the Brisbane city centre. It is active in vigorously seeking policy decisions at all levels of government supporting cycling, and in particular relating to improved infrastructure, end-of-trip facilities, integration of cycling with other transport modes and a cyclist-friendly regulatory environment. CBD BUG members meet monthly to exchange information and ideas, discuss issues of relevance and determine the direction of policies to benefit CBD cyclists.

The CBD BUG has noted the statement on the Brisbane City Council (BCC) website that "Brisbane's goal is to be the most sustainable city in Australia, with a vision developed in partnership with the community to provide a means whereby both locals and tourists can enjoy the wealth of options that we have to offer as the capital of the Sunshine State." The CBD BUG strongly holds the view that a key factor in BCC achieving this goal will be significantly increasing the number of people leaving their cars at home, and instead cycling on a regular basis for personal transport.

To this end the CBD BUG has identified the two following key priorities.

Accounting for Council cycling expenditure

The CBD BUG sees a need for additional transparency about Council's annual actual expenditure on cycling, to ensure its actions correspond to the commitments given during the 2012 election campaign.

The CBD BUG acknowledges the amount of work involved for Council officers in compiling a retrospective account of BCC cycling expenditure during the previous administration. Therefore, the CBD BUG requests a report be provided annually detailing the expenditure against the current \$120 million- four year commitment for cycling; with the report including the following information.

1. A list of projects completed within the previous 12 month period with funding from this election commitment.
2. For each completed project, a breakdown of how the funding was used e.g. construction of concrete bike path, road markings, associated landscaping etc.
3. Specific details of how funding from this commitment was used, if applied for purposes other than cycling projects e.g. ongoing maintenance, organisational/unit funding etc.

It is anticipated Council can provide this information under its Administrative Access scheme.

Regular informal meetings between CBD BUG and Council officers

Over the last several years officers of the Active Transport Unit have met approximately every two months with CBD BUG representatives on an informal and off-the-record basis.

These meetings have allowed a quick and effective information exchange that benefited both the CBD BUG and the BCC through removing the much more cumbersome and time consuming exchange of written correspondence. The CBD BUG suggests these meetings were particularly useful in enabling BCC's rapid responses to urgent/important cyclist safety issues.

The CBD BUG seeks your support to continue these meetings, in supporting the joint interests of rolling out the priority infrastructure that will encourage more people to regularly ride bikes for transport and allowing the BCC to meet its performance targets and election expenditure commitments.

I look forward to your responses in these issues.

If further clarification or definition of this request is required, please contact me directly on 0423 974 825 at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully



Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

25 June 2012

CC: Mitch Bright, Convenor, Airport BUG