

Bicentennial Bikeway – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade

Consultation Summary Report
August 2021



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Cover image: Artist's impression of the Bicentennial Bikeway – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade, west view.

Project overview

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is committed to creating a single integrated transport network accessible to everyone, building prosperity and supporting the development of liveable regions and active cities.

The current Bicentennial Bikeway section between Kurilpa Bridge and Victoria Bridge is constrained and in need of an upgrade for separation of people walking and people riding bicycles.

Planning is now underway for a new separated four metre wide cycleway, three metre wide pedestrian walkway and a new wheelchair-accessible ramp to either Turbot Street or Ann Street to access the Central Business District (CBD).

The project is part of a series of upgrades to the Bicentennial Bikeway between the Queen's Wharf Brisbane (QWB) development and Toowong.

The Queensland Government has committed \$1.6 million to undertake the planning for this upgrade.



*Artist's impression of the Bicentennial Bikeway
– Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade, east view.*

Introduction

This community consultation report provides a summary of the community and stakeholder consultation carried out to inform the community of the business case for the proposed Bicentennial Bikeway – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade. The proposed upgrade is for people walking and people riding bicycles from the Queen's Wharf Brisbane development to the existing upgraded facilities upstream of the Kurilpa Bridge. It will also upgrade connections to the Brisbane CBD.

This report provides information about the consultation process, feedback received and how this feedback is addressed.

Project background

TMR undertook community consultation on the proposed Bicentennial Bikeway – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade from late September to late October 2020. This consultation consisted of:

- in-person meetings with Bicycle User Groups (BUGs) and Brisbane City Council representatives
- an online engagement survey
- options to provide feedback where participants could call, write or email the project team
- social media posts to promote the project and online survey.

Consultation for the project commenced late September 2020. However, stakeholder engagement methods were adjusted in light of COVID-19.

The Queensland Government has endorsed safety measures, including social distancing and limiting non-essential face-to-face contact with external stakeholders. The project team engaged with the community through online consultation, which allowed for community consultation to occur through online channels.

From late September 2020 through late October 2020, TMR maintained a dedicated Bicentennial Bikeway project webpage, with project details, online survey, artist's impressions, a telephone line, Metropolitan Region postal address and Metropolitan Region email address.

TMR agreed to advise the community about the outcomes of the community feedback received from the online survey and individual responses where required. Further community consultation opportunities will be provided as the project progresses.

Bicentennial Bikeway – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade



Cyclists on the Bicentennial Bikeway with Go Between Bridge in the background.



Consultation activities

Online community engagement commenced in late September 2020, through TMR's project webpage and the 'Have Your Say' online survey went live on 28 September 2020.

Directly impacted stakeholders between North Quay, Makerston Street, Roma Street, George Street and Elizabeth Street were contacted directly by letterbox notification. Bicycle User Groups were also consulted in phone meetings.

A list of key activities completed is shown below.



Web page update

The project webpage went live on 28 September 2020, including a link to the online survey.

<https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/bicentennial-bikeway-kurilpa-bridge-to-victoria-bridge-upgrade>



Media statement

A media statement was issued to launch the online survey.





Social media coverage

A social media post was published by TMR's Facebook page on 7 October 2020 with information about the project and a link to the project's 'Have Your Say' online survey. The post campaign results were:

- 75,376 reach (the number of people who saw the post at least once)
- 122,601 impressions (the number of times the content has been seen; no matter if a person has seen it more than once)
- 244 reactions (likes, loves)
- 221 comments
- 65 shares (including stakeholder bodies such as Bicycle User Groups, Queensland Walks, CarsQ and Westender).



'Have Your Say' online survey

The 'Have Your Say' online survey went live on 28 September 2020 and ran until 25 October 2020 to gather community feedback.

This survey was published directly on www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au and TMR's project webpage. The results from this survey are detailed on page 6.

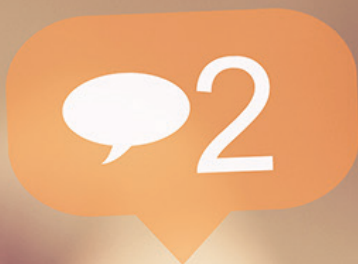


Notification flyer invitation handout and poster display

A1 sized posters were displayed on concrete piers on the Bicentennial Bikeway between Victoria Bridge and Kurilpa Bridge inviting users to participate in the online survey.

Directly impacted stakeholders along Bicentennial Bikeway were offered flyer handouts to participate in the online survey on:

- Tuesday 6, October 2020
- Wednesday, 7 October 2020
- Wednesday, 14 October 2020
- Saturday, 17 October 2020
- Monday, 19 October 2020.



Phone meetings

Bicycle User Group stakeholders who were unavailable for face-to-face meetings due to the COVID-19 social distancing requirements were contacted by phone for a meeting to discuss the Bicentennial Bikeway – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade.

Consultation outcomes: Feedback and results

Most feedback was received through the 'Have Your Say' online survey:



2 emails



1 phone meeting with Bicycle User Groups



336 'Have Your Say' online survey participation

'Have Your Say' online survey summary

| Method received | Number of submissions |
|---|-----------------------|
| Start date | 28 September 2020 |
| End date | 25 October 2020 |
| Number of people who saw the online survey advertising | 75,376 |
| Completed responses | 336 |
| Survey views | 2169 |
| Registration for project updates | 336 |
| Comments, suggestions or feedback left in the free text field | 221 |



The most common themes of the comments received included:

Separation of people walking and people riding bicycles

Survey participants and stakeholders both demonstrated a strong support for the separation of people walking and people riding bicycles through dedicated pathways. This theme predominantly revolved around safety, with a desire to reduce the risk of accidents and crashes happening between people walking and people riding bicycles.

Connectivity and accessibility

Survey participants expressed a desire for smooth connectivity along the bikeway with minimal areas where they are required to stop or slow down such as crossings and sharp corners. Sixty four per cent of participants stated that the preferred access point is the Ann Street exit ramp. There was support to improve the connecting ramp with a lower gradient and increased lighting.

Public safety and appeal

A desire to increase the safety and appeal of the bikeway was a highlight in the survey responses. The bikeway area under the freeway has a negative reputation, with 36 per cent of respondents stating it as the reason they avoid the bikeway with comments labelling it dark, unsafe and ugly. Participants stated they did not feel comfortable going on the bikeway in the early morning or late at night due to safety, particularly while running. The key factor behind this was a lack of lighting, with 29 mentions in the additional comments asking for more lighting to be included in the upgrade.

There were 336 responses to the online survey. Some of the questions allowed multiple responses which means individual survey participants fell into multiple categories. The data is summarised below and detailed on page 9.



The responses showed that most people who responded to the online survey:

- use bicycles (79.76 per cent)
- travel by walking/running (16.67 per cent)
- travel by E-scooter (2.38 per cent)
- travel by public transport or other mode of transport along the Bicentennial Bikeway (1.2 per cent).



People who responded to the survey travelled along the Bicentennial Bikeway during:

- peak times (58.63 per cent)
- early morning (24.40 per cent)
- middle of the day (12.50 per cent)
- in the evening (4.46 per cent).



Most respondents to the online survey:

- rode a bike through the area (64.58 per cent)
- walked/ran through the area (12.50 per cent)
- worked nearby (10.12 per cent)
- lived nearby (8.33 per cent)
- attended a nearby educational facility (1.49 per cent)
- listed their interest as 'other' which may include going to the shops (2.38 per cent).



Most people who responded to the online survey:

- were satisfied that the proposed upgrade meets community needs (80.36 per cent)
- remained neutral (13.39 per cent)
- stated that they were dissatisfied (6.25 per cent).

The open-ended question asking for general feedback was answered by 236 respondents. The majority of respondents were generally supportive of the upgrade but also suggested other areas they would like to see improvement on active transport infrastructure.



Shutterstock image of bicycle handles.

Specific issues to be addressed

A number of issues raised during the consultation period have been captured by the project team. The following will be considered during design development as the project continues.

Separation of people walking and people riding bicycles

Summary of issue:

- Separation of paths would reduce congestion and the need for manoeuvring which significantly impacts users travel time, particularly through peak periods.
- Separation of people who walk and people riding bicycles is a safety issue.
- Clear signage to support safe behaviours including giving way to bike riders at crossings, slowing down around corners, leaving space for overtaking, and staying on the dedicated paths with potential for fish-eye corner mirrors and path markings as potential mitigation methods.
- Both people walking and people who ride bicycles were named by participants as the cause of these safety risks from either reckless riding or a lack of pedestrian awareness. The safety concerns associated with a shared path were the most common reason participants stated they avoided the bikeway.

How issues have been/will be addressed:

- As part of its business case for the Bicentennial Bikeway – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade, TMR is investigating the separation for people walking and people riding bicycles from the Queen's Wharf Brisbane development to the existing upgraded facilities upstream of the Kurilpa Bridge. It will also upgrade connections to the Brisbane CBD.
- TMR will investigate appropriate signage and mitigations to be installed to promote safe behaviours.

Queen's Wharf Brisbane (QWB)

Summary of issue:

- QWB shared zone will make TMR's upgrade irrelevant, as users will face the same safety and congestion issues only further up the river.
- Howard Smith Wharves shared zone is seen as a failure which participants do not wish to see repeated along the Bicentennial Bikeway or at Queen's Wharf.

How issues have been/will be addressed:

- QWB is being delivered by the Destination Brisbane Consortium. This is separate to TMR's Bicentennial Bikeway – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade.
- TMR acknowledges feedback received on QWB however TMR's project provides upgrade to the existing facility between Kurilpa Bridge and Victoria Bridge. TMR's project provides necessary structural upgrade of the existing facility providing better security, better separation for people walking and people riding bicycles as well as the option to use an upgrade ramp into the CBD to avoid QWB to access Ann Street or Turbot Street.

Connectivity to various bridges and city roads

Summary of issue:

- The Bicentennial Bikeway requires smooth connectivity along the bikeway with minimal areas where users are required to stop or slow down such as crossings, intersections and sharp corners.
- Poor connectivity between the Bicentennial Bikeway and Kurilpa Bridge/Tank Street with current infrastructure labelled confusing and unsafe, with no easy or obvious connection available.

How issues have been/will be addressed:

- While outside the scope of the project, considerations could be made towards adding signage and markings for a safer route.
- The project addresses connectivity by reducing conflicts between people walking and people riding bicycles.
- TMR has proposed one new crossing only for pedestrians to access a new ramp to Ann Street. Safety and current design standards have been considered in the proposal. Furthermore, there is a requirement to provide stairs below Ann Street for access for people with disabilities.

Preferred exit ramp locations

Summary of issue:

- Ann Street (65 per cent preferred).
- Ann Street provides better accessibility to more commonly used areas of the CBD, in particular Queen Street and clearer visuals of the CBD making navigating the CBD easier.
- Turbot Street (35 per cent preferred).
- Mainly chosen for the existing cycling infrastructure and easier accessibility to Roma Street Parklands.

How issues have been/will be addressed:

- TMR is designing access to Ann Street as the preferred location. However, the outcome is dependent on the Brisbane Metro design for North Quay Road. This option will coincide with the Brisbane Metro project that enables better connection with Kurilpa Bridge.
- The project includes an upgraded ramp from Ann Street which improves gradient, visibility and signage that will improve access to the bikeway. There is a further option for stairs to be used should people who walk prefer.

Public safety and appeal

Summary of issue:

- The bikeway under the freeway has a negative reputation with 36 per cent of participants stating this as the reason why they avoid the bikeway labelling it as dark, unsafe and ugly.
- Participants stated they did not feel comfortable going on the bikeway in the early morning or late at night for fears of their safety, particularly while running. A key factor mentioned was the lack of lighting.
- Participants also requested visually appealing pieces of artwork, outdoor furniture and viewing platforms.
- Eight participants also requested that the homeless be accounted for and appropriately relocated during and after construction.

How issues have been/will be addressed

- TMR propose to increase lighting as part of the upgrade design which helps improve safety for all users of the bikeway.
- TMR propose to enhance the amenity through landscape, lighting and amenity improvements.
- Prior to any works proceeding, there will be signage and notifications that construction will soon commence in the area.

Amenities including rest area

Summary of issue:

- Desired amenities raised in submissions included public toilets, rest stops, viewing areas, furniture, water fountains and a bike repair station.

How issues have been/will be addressed

- A rest stop and cycle parking equipment will be included as part of the project. There will also be areas for people who walk to stop and view the river along the pedestrian pathway.



Shutterstock image of young child riding bike with carer looking on.



Next steps

The business case for the proposed Bicentennial Bridge – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade is scheduled for completion mid-2021.

The feedback received during the consultation period will be used to inform the project team to help shape the final design.

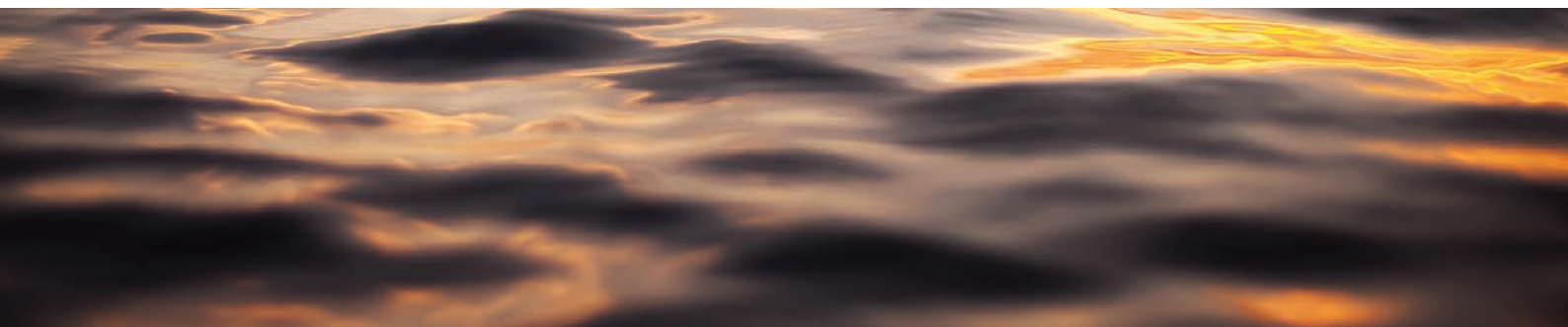
Follow up meetings with key stakeholders such as CBD BUGs and private property owners will occur in response to feedback received. Ongoing engagement and consultation with these community members will continue.

The current study involves the investigation of the Business Case. Currently there is no funding for further design or construction.

Stay informed

TMR will continue to update the community about the proposed Bicentennial Bikeway – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade by notifications to stakeholders and businesses via email and updating the web page.

To stay informed about the proposed Bicentennial Bikeway – Kurilpa Bridge to Victoria Bridge upgrade, and be added to the project email list, email the project team at metropolitanregion@tmr.qld.gov.au or call (07) 3066 4338 during business hours.





Shutterstock image of person adjusting bicycle helmet.