



20 March 2016

Graham Quirk, Lord Mayor  
Office of the Lord Mayor  
Via BCC on line form.

My dear Lord Mayor

Congratulations on your re-election. We hope that you have the opportunity this term to make your mark on Brisbane which will be remembered as your major contribution to Brisbane City.

Clem Jones is remembered as the mayor who sewered Brisbane; Jim Soorley remembered for instigating City Cat, buses and ICB; and Campbell Newman for his bridges and tunnels.

The bridges, tunnels and buses have now been done. The one major initiative remaining for a Mayor to leave his mark in Brisbane is to make Brisbane a bicycle friendly city.

The Lord Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, is famous for transforming transport in London with his bikelanes and now bicycles make up one sixth of Central London traffic [1]. On his retirement Boris Johnson said he wished he had built more bike lanes [2]. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in New York is famous for building a network of bikelanes in the city where bikes outnumber cars on some streets during rush hour [3].

Why are mayors in World Cities building bikelanes? Chicago's mayor Rahm Emanuel explained that planning for bikes diversifies cities' portfolios of transportation options, attracting and retaining startups and their employees, reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality [4]. Since 2011, Chicago has installed 103 miles of protected bicycle lanes and these new safe lanes have transformed bicycling into a mainstream mode of transportation.

The other reason mayors are doing this is because good, safe bike infrastructure is popular. Mayor Enrique Penalosa, who transformed Bogotá during his term from 1998 to 2001 by implementing a mass transit system and rolling out a network of bike paths that now stretch over 300km, has been re-elected again last year with the hope he can restore order to a city suffering again from gridlock traffic.

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk we hope you will take the opportunity this term to make your mark on Brisbane by making Brisbane a city where anyone aged 8 to 80 can travel to work, to school, to the shops, safely and conveniently by bicycle.

Yours sincerely

Mitch Bright  
for the Space for Cycling Team

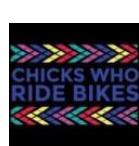
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