

Toowoomba–Cecil Plains Road, Taylor Street cycleway, business case

Planning phase community consultation summary

August 2023

Overview

The Department of Transport and Main Roads completed planning for the Taylor Street cycleway between Tor and Boundary streets, Toowoomba.

A concept plan has been developed for a safe, direct, connected and fit-for-purpose active transport facility to encourage more people to ride more often.

To support concept development and decision making, the department engaged with the community and key stakeholders over two rounds of consultation in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

The department is appreciative of the community taking the time to provide feedback. The local knowledge gathered has been used to inform and guide planning decisions.

The Queensland Government invested \$540,000 to develop the business case.

How we engaged

To promote the project and encourage people to contribute to planning we:

- informed elected representatives
- announced the project to the community
- established a TMR project web page and online survey
- distributed information to residents and businesses on Taylor Street and invited the community to have their say and complete the online survey
- promoted the online survey on social media
- provided a project update to the community
- distributed a proposed concept plan for the two-way cycleway to residents and businesses on Taylor Street
- consulted at various stages with the community, residents, property and business owners, community groups, bicycle user groups, local schools, bus operators and key stakeholders about the proposed concept plan.



Timeline



Engagement snapshot

The department engaged with:



via:

Social media

A Facebook post to promote the project including a link to the TMR project web page was published in August 2021

comments 262
shares 23
reach 30,207
impressions 95,568
link clicks 893

Written submissions

25

Stakeholder meetings

23

TMR project web page

Key project information including a link to the online survey was published 26 August 2021

page views 379

www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/toowoomba-cecil-plains-road-taylor-street-cycleway-business-case

Online survey

People shared their thoughts about bicycle riding in Toowoomba and on Taylor Street from 26 August 2021 to 24 September 2021

views 1541
visits 1423
visitors 1150
contributors 46
contributions 64

Feedback summary: what you told us

Why you like riding bikes

sustainable **exercise** often as quick as cars
with road congestion **enjoyable** medical condition
unlicensed **social** **well-being** **enjoyable**
aging population **public transport is terrible**
more connected to town and community **cheap**
would prefer there was safe facilities **non-polluting** **mobility scooter**
for children to ride and walk to school **healthy** trying to reduce personal greenhouse emissions
by 2030 in line with the UN's recommendations

Community feedback about the benefits of a cycleway on Taylor Street

- Taylor Street is a popular route for bicycle riders.
- A bikeway will improve safety for bicycle riders by providing protection from traffic, particularly heavy vehicles.
- Improved pavement conditions for bicycle riders.
- A separated bikeway will be more valuable than car parks on Taylor Street.
- The more cycling infrastructure the better, to encourage bike riding and generate positive benefits for the community.
- Improved connectivity to other active transport routes west of Toowoomba for competitive bicycle riders.

Community concerns:

Taylor Street is an industrial area, and too busy for bike riding

The department's response:

- People employed in Toowoomba's west will have more options to commute using active transport.
- A separated cycleway will protect riders from cars and trucks.

Conflicts between bike riders and vehicles at driveways and side-streets

- The give-way rules for people riding on the cycleway and crossing at driveways and side-streets is the same as for people walking on a footpath.
- Turning vehicles must slow down and give way to people crossing a driveway or side-street, whether they are walking or riding.

Feedback summary – continued

Community concerns:

Why was the route not located on less busy roads?

The department's response:

- Taylor Street is the most direct connection to the west of Toowoomba and has many desirable destinations for bike riders and walkers.
- Other routes had less space within the road corridor to fit dedicated bicycle riding and walking facilities.
- The Taylor Street route is a better fit for the [Principal Cycle Network](#).

The community benefit doesn't justify the cost

- On average, every \$1 invested in cycling infrastructure returns almost \$5 to Queensland in benefits including improved health and reduced traffic congestion (*Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-27*).

Who will use the facility?

- A safe, direct and connected cycleway will provide people with more options to commute using active transport, especially for existing and future residents and workers in Toowoomba's west.

Loss of parking on Taylor Street

- To minimise the impact on adjacent properties and make space for more active and sustainable forms of transport on Taylor Street, the on-street car parking will need to be removed.

Next steps

The next phase of the project will further develop the concept plan and undertake detailed investigations to prepare 'shovel ready' designs.

The department will consult again with the community, particularly residents and businesses on Taylor Street, as part of the process to develop the detailed design.

For more information

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