



Media Release – Embargo, 1am Wednesday, 4 November 2020

Brisbane’s bikeability scored as part of national initiative

In an Australian first, We Ride Australia has scored every Australian capital on the ability to ride to local destinations with Brisbane hot on the heels of Sydney and Melbourne with a score of 40 out of a possible 100.

In a rapidly evolving environment, it is expected that Brisbane’s score will improve further as pop up bikeways are built as part of the QLD Government and City of Brisbane’s COVID measures.

We Ride’s Executive Officer, Peter Bourke, led the Bicycle Transport Analysis (BTA) project in Australia.

“We are pleased to see Brisbane’s score even before many of the new pop up bikeways are completed, he said.

“The work to be undertaken in Brisbane to improve key links in the network will make it easier and safer for workers who would like to commute by bike,” said Peter Bourke.

“The Bicycle Transport Analysis allows any Council to analyse their local networks and create stress maps that pinpoint where cities and towns can invest to make riding easier, more enjoyable and safer,

“Our objective is to roll out the BTAs to encourage the provision of connected bicycle networks that we know encourage more short daily trips by bicycle,” said We Ride’s Peter Bourke.

“This has never been more important as so many Australians have chosen to ride a bike during the COVID-19 pandemic because they felt safer with so little traffic on the roads.”

“Also, as we invest in COVID recovery, we mustn’t forget that people arriving at local shops by cycling and walking spend more¹ and more local jobs are created² building bikeways than roads for the same amount of money,” said Mr Bourke.

The ratings system was developed by We Ride’s partners in the USA and uses open source, publicly available data. More than 650 North American, European and Australian cities have now been scored with Brisbane comparable to cities such Detroit and Palo Alto in California. The closest cities in Australia are Sydney (43), Perth (42) and Melbourne (45).

The Bicycle Transport Analysis will be extended in 2021 and Local Governments wishing to participate in the program should contact We Ride Australia.

Media Contact:

Stephen Hodge, 0411 149 910, stephen@weride.org.au to arrange comments or interviews with We Ride’s Executive Officer, Peter Bourke. **More information** – see next.

¹ For a summary of the evidence, Sustrans, 2019. Accessed 3.11.20:

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/media/5224/common-misconceptions-of-active-travel-investment.pdf>

² Mining Recovery Act Data for Opportunities to Improve the State of Practice for Overall Economic Impact Analysis of Transportation Investments. 2012, AASHTO, Accessed 3.11.20:

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/docs/NCHRP08-36%28103%29_FR.pdf

Further information:

- The BTA's utilise open source data, including the Australian Census and OpenStreetMaps (OSM), Qgis along with GIS data made available by cities and Councils.
- The full range of city maps and breakdown of the scoring can be seen at www.weride.org.au/bta
- International city scores can be seen at <https://bna.peopleforbikes.org/#/>