

Tennyson Ward Office

From: Tennyson Ward Office
Sent: Monday, 12 August 2024 12:07 PM
To: CEOOffice
Cc:
Subject: FW: Walter Taylor Bridge Closure

Categories: Saved in Act

Dear Mr Wright

Further to my email below, there are a number of inadequacies in the plans provided to me on Friday. I have a range of additional concerns and options for investigation and action.

1. consider moving the proposed maintenance works to January approx. 5 – 18 January 2025 as it is a much quieter time of year with limited sport, university and school.
2. consider making either Legacy Way free to provide alternate city access in recognition of the lengthy detour accessing the city and to prevent further pressure being added to the already highly congested South Brisbane and Annerley access to the riverside expressway.
3. urgently investigate with Cook St and Oxley Rd can cope with the expected traffic volumes and consider temporary traffic lights or other traffic management measures to ensure Oxley Road and this critical local east-west connection remains safe and accessible.
4. urgently investigate whether temporary traffic calming measures should be put in place through the back streets of Corinda and Oxley to ensure local residents are safe from the significantly increased levels of rat-running that are already a problem in this area.
5. immediately provide clarity and a map outlining the route of the detour at Honour Ave Chelmer and the impact of local streets in Chelmer
6. immediately clarify access for residents in Chelmer with driveway north of Bridge St inside the proposed road closure area
7. immediately improve the pedestrian and bike access to the Jack Pesch Bridge including removing the unsafe staircase on Wharf St and establishing safe off-road access or dedicated on universal access road access for cyclists and pedestrians.
8. immediately provide a cycling and pedestrian detour plan for southside residents to safely access the Jack Pesch Bridge and ensure that plan is well communicated and signed.
9. urgently confirm whether ambulances will be able to use the Jack Pesch Bridge for emergency access given they are wider than 2m limit in the briefing note.
10. Immediately come clean with Brisbane residents about the future life span of the Walter Taylor Bridge. What is its expected lifespan? I was told 80 years during major works several years ago and now Cr Andrew Wines is saying 15 years.

I again urge Council to put a hold on this decision and investigate alternatives that provide critical ongoing access, and or limited nighttime closures for the community across the Walter Taylor Bridge that also enable the maintenance works to be completed.

Regards

Nicole Johnston
Councillor for Tennyson Ward



Cr Nicole Johnston
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From: Tennyson Ward Office
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 1:30 PM
To: CEOOffice
Cc:
Subject: Walter Taylor Bridge Closure

Dear Mr Wright

I have belated today been advised that Council is shutting the Walter Taylor Bridge between 13 September and 30 September 2024.

I note that Council did not have the courtesy to consult with me about this decision and I have only been notified at the last minute. In fact, my office received a call from a resident yesterday and Council had not bothered to advise us of these works.

I do not support the decision to fully close the Walter Taylor Bridge for two weeks. It is a terrible decision that will deliberately and unnecessarily disenfranchise local residents' access to critical services including work, education, health care, community, shopping and recreational services. Council should develop an alternate plan that maintains access.

Lives may be put at risk due to the inadequate emergency access arrangements for emergency services.

- Elderly and disabled residents will have no access to public transport. Sherwood Rail station does not have a lift and there is no universal access. Nor does the long uphill walk from Indooroopilly Rail Station meet disability standards due to the significant gradient.
- Cyclists and pedestrians will be put at risk from vehicles using the Jack Pesch Bridge.
- Access to critical health and hospital services in the western suburbs will be severed.
- The detours proposed via congested roads that are subject to major constriction on the Centenary Motorway AND Seventeen Mile Rocks road doesn't connect to Oxley Road, so the detour ignores significant safety and constraint issues via the Cook St, Oxley shopping precinct – Cook St does and has no traffic lights nor capacity to handle an extra 30,000 vpd. Nor does the existing dysfunctional intersection at Cliveden Ave and Oxley Rd which is currently also subject to partial road closures for a major consultation project.
- There is no right turn from Honour Ave to Bridge St and no clear or safe plan for diversions other than through narrow residential streets in Chelmer putting residents' safety at risk from high volumes of through traffic.
- Emergency services are limited due to the height and weight restriction on the Jack Pesch Bridge.
- The plan is unclear about access to the Taylor Bridge playground and park, including public parking which must be maintained for community use.
- There is no construction management nor site plan nor any information at all about the proposed Southern works site
- Corflutes are inadequate as notification.

Finally, based on Council's record I have no confidence that Council can actually do the work within the two-week time frame. The Brisbane Metro and Moggill Road projects have blown out by a year. The briefing note I was sent this morning fails to include any advice on contingencies if the works are not completed meaning residents may be subject to significant lengthier disruptions.

Presenting this as a fait accompli is disrespectful to me and the community I represent. It further confirms to me that Council is operating as a corporate dictatorship and is not interested in good governance nor genuine community engagement about Council decisions, particularly where they adversely impact on residents.

I urge Council to put a hold on this decision and investigate alternatives that provide critical ongoing access, and or limited nighttime closures for the community across the Walter Taylor Bridge that also enable the maintenance works to be completed.

I look forward to your urgent reply.

Regards

Nicole Johnston
Councillor for Tennyson Ward



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Councillor for Tennyson Ward

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