

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN)
22 September 2023

Transport Plan for Brisbane
Brisbane City Council
GPO Box 1434
Brisbane Qld 4001.

Subject: Input regarding Draft Walkable Brisbane Strategy

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN), I am writing to provide feedback surrounding the Draft Walkable Strategy.

As an organisation committed to disability advocacy, we are eager to work hand in hand with you to effect positive change in areas such as accessibility.

Inaccessible infrastructure presents significant obstacles to the full social and economic participation of people with disability. “Whole of Journey” planning needs to consider the needs of people with disability as well as be co-designed with people with disability. Often if one part of the journey is inaccessible, the whole journey becomes inaccessible.

Getting around cities and towns by travelling on the footpaths, whether that’s walking, rolling, strolling, or cycling can be a large part of travel for people with disability when other options such as public transport and driving are not accessible or available. This is highlighted through the following statistics:

- Almost 20% of Queenslanders are people with disability.
- ABS data shows that people with disability are more likely to be a passenger in a private vehicle (73%) than the driver (50%).
- Approximately 40% of train stations across south-east Queensland cannot be accessed without stairs.

As part of the Queensland Walking Alliance’s *Call To Action*, QDN supports the key actions in *Accessibility and Inclusion for walking, rolling and strolling in Queensland: A Call to Action*, including:

1. Footpath Network Reviews
2. Dedicated Pedestrian Infrastructure Grants
3. Increased Investment in Footpath Networks as A Priority Transport Mode
4. Pedestrian Training and Staff Resources
5. Walking Strategies and Plans

You can read more about the details of what is involved in each individual action within the document here ([Queensland Walking Alliance Call to Action 2023 \(queenslandwalks.org.au\)](https://queenslandwalks.org.au))

QDN welcomes the commitment to accessibility included by Brisbane City Council in the Draft Walkable Strategy including:

- The vision of the Strategy including walking as a viable option for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
- The Council seeking to ensure pedestrian networks abide by the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provide equitable access to all users.
- The plan to encourage safe parking of e-mobility devices such as e-bikes and scooters.
- The Action to investigate options to identify and deliver targeted footpath improvements to assist people with disability.
- The directions to design priority pedestrian routes and areas to be compliant with the DDA and include features such as tactile signage, braille trails, rails and ramps, to identify and deliver targeted footpath improvements to assist people with disability, to develop innovative ways to provide information for people with mobility, hearing and visual impairment, to encourage people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds through targeted information programs and to use co-design principles and process to solve design challenges and deliver more inclusive walkability outcomes.
- The directions to ensure the safety of pedestrians is fundamental to planning and design considerations, to provide infrastructure that separates pedestrians from incompatible transport modes, to investigate a shared pathway hierarchy, to enhance lighting, to ensure footpaths are managed and maintained, to ensure construction and development activities provide safe pedestrian movement, to continue to monitor pedestrian behaviours for safety purposes and to encourage the development of plans for major institutions and facilities addressing access and safety.

Kind regards,

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