Bendigo Jury Submission 4 – Bike Bendigo

Bike Bendigo is a community organisation working to improve the bicycle friendliness of Greater Bendigo for its liveability, health, economic, social and other benefits, including reducing congestion/pressure on our roads.

We have organised an expert, Delft University of Technology Professor Serge Hoogendoorn, from The Netherlands to visit Bendigo on 21 July and will be conducting two events that may be of interest to the Citizen’s Jury.

The first is a cycling and walking infrastructure ‘masterclass’, we’ll visit a few locations in the city and workshop how we might be able to make changes that can make cycling and walking a more attractive option for more people in the community, for example people who would like to ride but are concerned about safety and mixing with traffic.

We have a couple of places which can be made available to jurors to participate.

The second event is a public forum in the evening where the community can hear from Professor Hoogendoorn and ask questions.

A draft outline for the day is attached, I’d be happy to answer any questions.

Robert Kretschmer
Treasurer
Bike Bendigo
0402233358
https://www.facebook.com/BikeBendigo/
bikebendigo@gmail.com
Bendigo Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Masterclass – The Dutch experience

Background

Serge Hoogendoorn, Professor at Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands, is coming to Victoria to present at the Australian Institute of Traffic Planning and Management conference in July. Through conversations with the Dutch Cycling Embassy, The Australian Cycling Promotion Fund (CPF) and Bike Bendigo it has been arranged that the Professor will visit Bendigo on 21 July to conduct a masterclass on cycling infrastructure.

Professor Hoogendoorn’s current research focus is understanding the complexities of modelling ‘slow traffic’, ie people walking and cycling, see http://www.tudelft.nl/en/current/latest-news/article/detail/erc-advanced-grant-voor-het-ontrafelen-van-voetgangers-en-fietsstromen-in-steden/ for a little more info.

The visit from Professor Hoogendoorn has been organised by Bike Bendigo and funded La Trobe University’s Planning and Community Development Faculty.

Connecting Greater Bendigo – Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (ITLUS)

The Connecting Greater Bendigo (ITLUS) sets out the City’s Strategy for how Greater Bendigo will grow and how people and goods will move within it in the future through:

- progressively reduce the many short local trips that are unnecessarily made by car in urban Bendigo; especially accessing places in our local neighbourhoods, commuting to work in the city centre and travelling to and from school
- use clever and innovative city design to support far greater levels of walking, cycling and better public transport to better connect people and places and make big improvements in the health of everyone, particularly children; and
- further develop and strengthen existing innovative partnerships between Council and key organisations

Bike Bendigo

Bike Bendigo is a community based organisation committed to getting more people on bikes and developing Central Victoria as the bicycle capital of Regional Australia. The organisation works in partnership across the Greater Bendigo community to continuously improve the bicycle friendliness of our region. We promote cycling, its economic, social, health, liveability and environmental benefits to the community, advocate for improved infrastructure, facilities and programs and work to ensure cycling is an inclusive and accessible activity for everyday travel, recreation and doing business.
**La Trobe University**

The University is undertaking a study into how planning ideas are transferred from larger, global cities and regions to smaller cities such as Bendigo. Bringing experts to Bendigo provides an opportunity for the transfer of knowledge and ideas to occur, for the process to be studied and for participants and experts to be interviewed on their experience, learning and how they intend to apply new knowledge in their work.

Visits from international experts are often cited as providing opportunities for planners in smaller cities to learn from the experience of practitioners and their understanding of innovative processes and trends occurring in larger and/or global cities. These experts bring new ideas, approaches, information and an external viewpoint to smaller cities which is expected to enliven local planning practice, add to discussion, help new ideas breakthrough and expose communities to alternative ways of thinking.

**Participants**

A variety of stakeholders are to be invited to participate in the visit including Bike Bendigo representatives, engineers for local and state government departments, planners, community development workers, university staff and students and others.

**Master Class (Draft) program**

10:00am  Meet at La Trobe University  
Welcomes and introductions  
Bendigo Context  
Bike Bendigo  
City of Greater Bendigo  
Objectives of Day  
Bike Fleet agreements  

11:00am  Access/distribute Bikes/Requirements  

11:15am  Ride along proposed path to City Centre, Rosalind Park, stops at key locations  
(Consider splitting group between Keck and Ellis Street)  
Wolstencroft Park/Creek Trail/Williamson Street Connection  
Arrive at Rosalind Park  

12:00pm  Lunch and discussion  

1:00pm  Creek trail/Hargreaves Street options  

2:00pm  Arrive Visual Arts Centre  
Pedestrian Crossing at Art Gallery/Capital OR Charing Cross  
Invited speaker from Art Gallery  

2:30pm  Afternoon tea and discussion/workshop findings  
3:30pm  Summarise results  
4:00pm  Close Masterclass  

**6:30pm  Public Event at Visual Arts Centre**

Introduction  

6:40pm  Serge Hoogendoorn Presentation (and 10 mins questions)  
7:20pm  Bike Bendigo  
La Trobe University  
City of Greater Bendigo  
Masterclass participant findings  

7:50pm  Public discussion/questions  
8:30  End of event/Nibbles
Case Study Locations

1. La Trobe University to Rosalind Park

Description: Start/Finish from La Trobe University to Rosalind Park, via Spring Gully Creek Trail and Williamson Street

The City of Greater Bendigo’s Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy proposes walking and cycling connection improvements from La Trobe University to the Bendigo Railway Station and the City centre (to Rosalind Park) as an example of a high quality walking and cycling route. The route was chosen to provide a comfortable journey that avoids hills, unsafe intersections and mixing with traffic. The design of this route will feature a high degree of separation of cycling lanes from vehicle traffic, high open space quality and active transport priority at intersections.

The next stage for this route is a conceptual/master planning process to determine requirements for design and construction.
2. Inner City – Bendigo Creek Trail/Hargreaves Street

Currently there is no direct separated bicycle infrastructure connection between the northern and southern lengths of the Bendigo Creek Trail shared path through the Bendigo city centre.

The ITLUS identifies an action to:

*Investigate the relative merits, costs, impediments and approvals required of both: (1) Removing the ban on bicycles in Hargreaves Mall and linking the southern and northern sections of the Bendigo Creek Trail through the City Centre including using the Hargreaves Mall by safely integrating cycling with pedestrians and crossing Pall Mall to link the Trail back to the Creek and (2) continuing the Trail within the Bendigo Creek channel and providing for cycle access points at key locations for access to the city centre, Rosalind Park and schools.*
3. Charing Cross/View Street, Bendigo Art Gallery Pedestrian Crossing

Charing cross is one of Bendigo’ busiest intersections. Traffic movements are complex and it can be difficult to cross streets, in particular for older residents as pedestrian crossing deprioritised.

In recent years Bendigo has experienced significant growth in cultural activities such as outdoor dining and tourist visitation. With a recent expansion, Bendigo Art Gallery is now Australia’s Largest Regional Art Gallery and regularly presents international calibre exhibitions and programs attracting 150-200,000 visitors to the gallery each year. The Gallery and adjacent Capital Theatre, other cultural venues and Rosalind Park are located within the city’s arts precinct. Cafes, restaurants, hotels, shops and the La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre are located across View Street. View Street is located on a relatively steep hill and traffic speeds are relatively high and there is no formal provision of traffic calming or crossings for people walking, similarly there is no provision of cycling infrastructure.