

# OUR ACCESSIBLE, CONNECTED CITY

## Key findings:

### Trends and issues affecting young people in Brisbane

Council wants all young people to experience Brisbane as a city with effective road networks and great access to green and active transport. In 2014-2019, our strategic priorities for achieving this will respond to three key findings.

01

**Young people are enthusiastic in embracing active transport.** Many are keen walkers, cyclists, skateboarders, roller bladers, rollerskaters and scooter riders – using their own ‘two-feet-and-a heartbeat’ to get

around the city. Young people face barriers including attitudes towards skate boarding and roller blading that see these as anti-social or recreational activities rather than as legitimate alternative forms of transport.

02

**Young people who live in Brisbane’s outer suburbs are sometimes challenged by transport timetabling and ticketing.** They report that it is challenging to get to where they want to go, especially late at night or on weekends.

03

**Young people experiencing mobility impairments are active users of self-transport options (including mobility scooters and wheelchairs).** They are strong advocates for the inclusion of mobility devices in transport and active travel network planning. They seek footpaths that are wide enough for mobility devices, accessible public transport and public spaces that have universal access features enjoyed by their peers.

## How young people are contributing to an accessible and connected Brisbane

Young people have a lot to contribute towards an accessible and connected future for Brisbane.

- Enthusiastic active travellers are embracing alternatives to the car and participating in Council-supported events such as Ride-to-Work Day.
- Young advocates are expecting universally accessible design of Brisbane's streetscapes, public spaces and buildings to ensure they provide access to Council programs for people of different ages and abilities over time.
- Young people are designers of innovative equipment, end-of-trip facilities and social cycling groups that connect with Council to make cycling more social and easier to integrate into everyday life.

## Ongoing Council programs and initiatives

Council has many existing services, initiatives and programs helping to make Brisbane an accessible and connected city for young people. These will continue under the *Youth Strategy 2014-2019*.

- **Active Transport strategy.** Council's *Active Transport Strategy 2012-2026* aims to create a high-quality, connected, accessible pathway network that will attract people of all ages to walk and cycle. The vision is that in 2026, Brisbane will have a network of safe laneways, walkways and bikeways for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchairs, prams and micro-electric vehicles, linking neighbourhoods to key destinations throughout the city. Our public transport will excel in service, amenity, frequency, routing, information, affordability and safety. It identifies five priorities:

1. encouraging walking and cycling
2. walking and cycling-friendly suburbs
3. a connected commuter network
4. a safe and accessible network
5. information at your fingertips.

- **Active Communities.** We work with communities to become model 'active communities' to improve walking and cycling to local schools, shops, employment, public transport, community facilities and recreation areas.

COUNCIL BUSES PROVIDED  
MORE THAN 79 MILLION TRIPS IN  
THE 2012/13 FINANCIAL YEAR.

- **Brisbane Access and Inclusion Plan.** Council's *Access and Inclusion Plan 2012-2017* aims to achieve universal inclusion of all residents and visitors in the life of Brisbane, Australia's New World City. It documents an integrated whole-of-Council approach to becoming a local government organisation that places priority on achieving equitable access and inclusion for everyone. This plan is focused on our local government role and responsibilities and it highlights more than 120 ongoing Council programs that are already providing significant benefits across the community, and identifies a range of new initiatives that we can realistically achieve over the five years of the plan.
- **The River's Edge Strategy** aims to improve access and activity on and along the inner-city reaches of the Brisbane River and has been developed using ideas provided by Brisbane residents, businesses and river user groups.

Launched in 2013, the strategy seeks to enhance the river's recreational and economic development opportunities over coming years.

- **Proactive relationships between bus depots and local schools.** Brisbane Transport's regional bus depots have staff that work with local schools to negotiate responses to emerging needs and issues. The schools are proactive in supporting appropriate behaviour on Council buses. Likewise, bus operators proactively seek training that supports them to effectively work with passengers to ensure buses remain safe and accessible.
- **Commuter cycling network.** We will continue to create a network of high-quality cycle paths with separation from cars and pedestrians in high-use areas, helping cyclists get to where they need to go.
- **Advocacy for improved public and community transport.** As well as being

a provider of bus, ferry and CityCat services, Council has an important role as an advocate to the Queensland and Australian Governments for provision of better public transport for Brisbane. We operate bus services under contract arrangements with TransLink, who are responsible for setting fares, timetables, policies and services for buses.

- **Neighbourhood shade ways.** Planting trees along our pathways to ensure they are green, shady and cool to walk, run and cycle along.
- **Council Cabs and Personalised Public Transport.** Council Cabs service organises shared taxis at scheduled times for residents who find it difficult to get to their local shops due to mobility impairments and ageing. Personalised public transport (PPT) operates in areas where TransLink services are restricted and provides wheelchair-accessible maxi-cabs on a fixed route.

Our accessible, connected city



- **CityCycle.** Australia's largest public bike hire scheme provides Brisbane with a fast, affordable and convenient public transport option, with 2000 bikes and 150 stations stretching from Newstead to St Lucia.
- **Active School Travel program.** This highly successful program encourages children to take up walking and cycling from an early age, providing long-term benefits in terms of personal health and sustainable transport choices. The program aims to change travel behaviour and reduce traffic congestion around primary schools by encouraging students and parents to walk, cycle, scooter, car pool or use public transport. The program features weekly active travel days, walking groups, park and stride, road safety skills, active travel maps, public transport orientation and bike and scooter skills training.
- **Provision of mid-journey facilities.** We will continue to identify key locations along the commuter network for mid-journey facilities including a trial of bicycle pump and maintenance stands.

## Where we want to be

There are two outcomes we want young people to experience.

- Young people in Brisbane enjoy good public transport, safe journeys, networked bikeways and safe, shady walking paths.
- Young people understand the impacts of their travel choices, and create and use alternatives to the car for getting around.

## How we are going to get there

### Strategy 4.1

**Build efficient, youth-friendly and safe public and active transport networks.** Nurture an emerging culture among young people that expects their city to be planned and built around efficient, friendly and safe public and active transport networks.

### Strategy 4.2

**Encourage a 'two-feet-and-a-heartbeat' philosophy to get around Brisbane.** Provide bikeways, facilities, maps and tours that encourage walking, cycling, roller blading and scooter riding using a 'two-feet-and-a-heartbeat' philosophy to get around the city.

### Strategy 4.3

**Promote universal design standards and best practice to ensure Council-owned and managed streetscapes, buses, public spaces and buildings are accessible.** We will promote our best practice to developers, other government and private property owners.

## New initiatives

Council's *Active Transport Strategy 2012-2026* contains 11 new initiatives that are being implemented during the life of this strategy, including the following that are particularly significant for young people.

### New initiative 11. Creating 'walking and cycling zones' around public transport stations.

Establish a commuter route-marker program, a specific signage program to ensure commuter cycling and walking routes are clearly signed with key destinations, as well as safety and directional information.

### New initiative 12. Cycling Brisbane.

A project encouraging people of all ages and abilities to cycle and support Brisbane's cycling community. As part of this project, residents and visitors will have access to a free membership program providing:

- exclusive discounts at supporting businesses
- the latest news on cycling projects
- the best cycle routes to try
- access to competitions, challenges and prizes

- an events calendar of all things cycling
- an online information hub to help people plan their walking or cycling trips by providing easy access to maps, route planning, share path rules and network closures.



92% OF COUNCIL'S BUS FLEET  
IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE  
(AT AUGUST 2013).

## Profile: Ellie Freeman – ‘We like bikes’

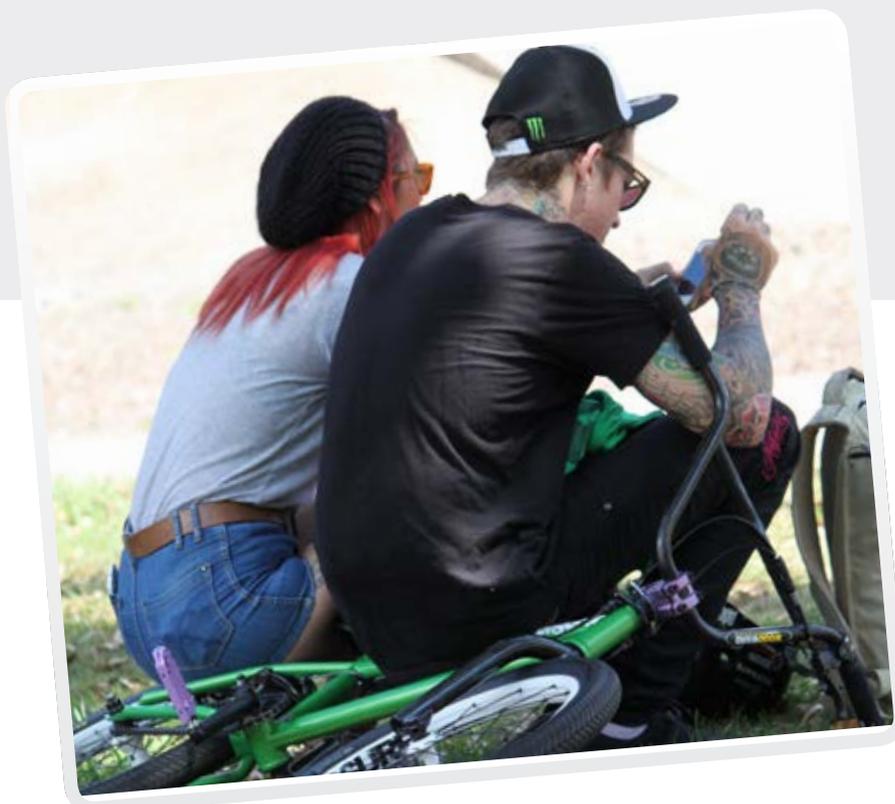
Radio and event producer, volunteer and active traveller, Ellie is a very busy young woman.

After becoming an avid bike user Ellie decided to host an event to celebrate and showcase the cycling subculture in Brisbane. ‘We like bikes’ event took place along Teneriffe bikeways and provided an opportunity for the community to come together

and learn more about bikes and Brisbane’s bikeways, and celebrate our active travel community. The event featured do-it-yourself bike maintenance workshops, a pedal-powered bus tour along the river, music, circus performers and much more.

For more information visit:

[www.elliefreeman.com](http://www.elliefreeman.com)



WEEKEND CYCLISTS ON BRISBANE'S  
BIKEWAY NETWORK INCREASED BY 96%  
BETWEEN 2004 AND 2010.

## Featured program: Community cycling and bikeways network

Brisbane has many bikeways and bike paths for cyclists riding to work, school or cycling for fun or fitness. Council provides bike paths, maps, CityCycle bike hire stations, bike shelters, cycle racks and cycle centres like King George Square. We aim to increase community fitness, reduce congestion and improve the environment by promoting a range of initiatives that promote cycling and other active transport options.

- **Bikeway maps.** Detailed maps of trails, dedicated lanes and bicycle-friendly roads help identify where you can ride, walk, park your bike, catch public transport and help make your trip safer and more pleasant. The maps are available from ward offices, libraries and customer service centres.
- **Bike Week and Ride to Work Day.** We support schools, universities and workplaces to promote cycling and active transport through the promotion of annual events.
- **Brisbane Bike Adventures.** Some of Brisbane's most beautiful and spectacular bike rides from the bay to the forest.
- **Bike parking and storage facilities.** Bike racks, shelters and storage are located at different cycling destinations around Brisbane. King George Square also provides facilities for cyclists such as showers, lockers and secure parking.
- **Bikes on public transport.** Cyclists can take their bikes on CityCats, ferries and Brisbane trains during non-peak times.
- **Cycling tips, rules and signage across the city.** Clear messaging increases the safety of cyclists and pedestrians around Brisbane.
- **CityCycle.** An active and sustainable public transport initiative aimed at reducing traffic congestion and parking pressures in the inner city by offering a cost-effective alternative to short car, public transport and walking trips.

