



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

17 December 2019

Hon Mark Bailey MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Via email: transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Improvements to Bardon Bus Routes 375 and 475

Dear Minister Bailey,

I am writing to support a local campaign by Bardon residents for better bus services on the 375 and 475 routes. As you know, Brisbane's west side is notoriously poorly served by Translink's bus network, meaning many locals choose to drive and peak hour traffic is significant. I am also writing to request a briefing on the proposed bus network review from Translink and TMR.

Residents living in Bardon, especially in the western segment further from the route 61 Maroon City Glider have relatively poor connections with the Ipswich/Springfield train line, even though they live geographically very close by. Their connections with the CBD are also relatively slow and infrequent outside peak hour.

One example is the 'Treetops La Foresta' complex at 360 Simpsons Rd Bardon, the recent 'Canopy' development and 'Stonehaven' on Carwoola Street. These and similar developments are relatively well served for connections to the CBD at peak hour, but poorly served for other connections and at other times.

Six highly motivated local residents from the western section of Bardon have contacted me asking for several improvements. I strongly support their campaign, and I have set out our requests below.

Bus route 375

We request that you **create a connection with Toowong Village and Train Station** by extending the route past Bardon to commence and terminate at Toowong. Currently the 375 terminates at Carwoola Street, Bardon. The extension could run via Sir Samuel Griffiths Drive and the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.

This extension would be game-changer for the inner west. It would create a much-needed cross-suburban route linking the major activity centre and bus interchange at Toowong with Bardon, Paddington and northside suburbs. It would take significant pressure off Coronation Drive buses like the 412 and 411, and would allow a large catchment of residents to more easily access the CityCat network and the Ipswich/Springfield train line, which is already the best commuter line in Queensland.

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The 598/599 Great Circle Line does service this area, but its half-hourly frequency and poor on-time running performance means its usefulness is limited. Extending the 375 to Toowong would create a new connection for these residents.

We also request that you **make it easier to access the city on public transport** by increasing the frequency of services after 7pm in both directions to at least once every 30 minutes. Currently the 375 runs just once per hour after 7pm on weekdays and after 6pm on weekends.

Bus route 475

There is a significant opportunity to improve the effectiveness of both the 475 and 375 by making sure these two very important routes connect in Bardon. Right now they terminate within a two-minute drive, but in hilly Bardon that distance is a 15 minute walk.

We request that you extend the 475 route to start and terminate at Carwoola Street rather than Leworthy Street. This small extension would make sure the routes link up directly, where currently they don't, and would provide public transport options to Rosalie, Barooka Road and Milton Train Station.

For some families living at the western end of Bardon this extension would allow their kids to catch the bus to Rainworth State School.

Bus network review

We are hopeful that the government will implement these ideas as soon as possible. If this does not occur, locals understand that the long-awaited bus network review is scheduled to be delivered along with Cross River Rail and Brisbane Metro.

I strongly encourage the government to commit extra funding to expand the coverage and frequency of the network on the west side as part of that bus network review. I hope that the review can be carried out as soon as possible, and preferably in advance of construction for Brisbane Metro and Cross River Rail being completed.

Given the success of the recent meeting with TMR officers at my electorate office, I would like to request a briefing from the officials responsible for west side public transport planning, as well as the planning and delivery of the bus network review within Translink and TMR.

If you would like to discuss any of these matters further, please contact my office on (07) 3737 4100. My team would be happy to arrange the above briefing at a time suitable to the officials.

Kind regards,



Michael Berkman MP