



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: MC112764

09 MAR 2020

1 William Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 2644 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7300
Email transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.tmr.qld.gov.au

Mr Michael Berkman MP
Member for Maiwar
PO Box 423
INDOOROOPILLY CENTRE QLD 4068

Dear Mr *Michael,* Berkman

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 2019 about improvements to bus routes 375 and 475, in Bardon.

As you would appreciate, the Department of Transport and Main Roads' TransLink Division receives many requests for enhanced public transport services and facilities across Queensland. TransLink is committed to providing fair and equitable access to public transport, therefore, all requests for new services are considered and prioritised against competing needs across the state.

Bus routes such as the 375 and 475 are predominantly designed to provide commuter access to employment in the Brisbane Central Business District, and to provide off-peak access to key local attractors such as shops and medical facilities.

As noted in your letter, passengers wishing to travel between Bardon and Toowong can access the great circle bus routes 598 and 599 operating Monday to Friday at a 30-minute frequency and Saturday at a 60-minute frequency. A review of data of these bus routes indicates that patronage on this segment of the route, on most services, is not strong enough to trigger service enhancements to bus route 375.

While I recognise the benefits that can be achieved from extending hours of service, the current levels on the final services of the day do not warrant consideration for an extension.

I note that you have suggested extending bus routes to provide improved and more direct connectivity to several localities, including Toowong Village Shopping Centre, Rosalie Village shops, Baroona Road shops, along with several rail and CityCat terminals along Coronation Drive. While TransLink operates a large and complex interlinked network and seeks to design an efficient system that transports customers throughout the network, it is not possible to connect all locations to each other without transfer and wait times between services. Although not as convenient or as direct as customers may be wanting, commuters from Bardon can catch connecting bus and train services to these other desired destinations from interchanging at bus stops on Roma Street or at Roma Street station.

With regard to the proposal of extending bus route 475 to start and terminate at Carwoola Street for students attending Rainworth State School, it is acknowledged that some parents and carers may choose to send their children to a school other than the local state school and this is supported. TransLink's priority for school service funding is to enable students to travel to their nearest state school and, given that Carwoola Street is in the Bardon State School catchment area, extending bus route 475 to start and terminate at this location is not supported.

Broader assessment of the bus network required to support major projects such as Cross River Rail Project and Brisbane Metro, remain ongoing and in line with each project's stage of development.

As you may be aware, the Palaszczuk Government invests considerable resources into public transport services across the state. State government funding for services operated by Brisbane City Council alone amounts to in excess of \$325 million per year. I am pleased that record levels of funding by this government have resulted in record levels of patronage, with patronage increasing by 3.21 per cent to the end of the last financial year on buses across South East Queensland.

TransLink will continue to monitor demand for services and identify opportunities for service improvement in future reviews. Please note any service change is prioritised against all community needs across Queensland and the levels of resource availability.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MARK BAILEY', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads