

To whom it may concern,

The following submission is forwarded for consideration for the Qld Parliamentary Inquiry into Cycling Issues.

According to research, there are number of States in the USA that have different, and arguably, very progressive laws with respect to cyclists and road rules. Similarly, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands have also made amendments to their road rules which, in essence allows:

1. cyclists to treat stop signs as give way/yield signs, and
2. cyclists to treat red lights as stop signs.

The benefits of this approach are many and include:

1. Reduced traffic congestion at intersections resulting from cyclists not having to stop, pause, 'take-off' and regain speed after coming to a complete stop at a stop-signed intersection;
2. Improved traffic flow at all intersections;
3. Increased cyclist safety stemming from their ability to remain more stable and better positioned to execute evasive maneuvers, if necessary. This is generally very difficult after losing all momentum after coming to a complete stop;
4. Reduced stress and anxiety for cyclists when trying to regain speed, concentrate and navigate a safe route whilst having cars, buses, trucks etc bearing down on them when taking off;
5. Reduced stress for car drivers, currently impatient at having to wait for cyclists to 'clip-in' to their pedals and accelerate when moving through intersections or taking off from traffic lights;
6. Reduce the fear of cyclists (commonly women) have of being hit from behind or run over when trying to accelerate from an intersection. This will in-turn encourage increased participation rates for all (but importantly women);
7. Wider respect and acceptance for cyclists, often regarded as having no regard for road rules or the law; and
8. Potential environmental benefits, resulting from reducing the need for vehicles to accelerate aggressively, or stomp on it' to get around cyclists.

Discussions/examples of this can be found at:

<http://bicycling.com/blogs/roadrights/2009/07/28/a-stop-sign-solution/>

<http://www.ecf.com/news/belgium-right-turn-at-red-law-in-force-quicker-than-planned-ecf-newswatch/>

As a frequent cyclist and car driver for many years, I do not condone running red-lights in any circumstance. I do however feel that, at times, red lights and stop signs are totally inappropriate for cyclists. If it becomes more common for cyclists to follow the law, and unacceptable within our culture to disregard it, then public perception of cyclists could vastly improve. At the same time, the QPS would be able to focus their attention on unsafe cyclists and motorists, and other more pressing issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this very serious matter.

Regards,

Glenn McIntosh

