SEQ Transit Update:

By Jon Bunker, Immediate Past National President

South East Queensland’s TransLink Transit Authority and its rail service provider Queensland Rail commenced its new timetable on Monday 6 June 2011. The timetable affected a major restructure of schedules on the Ipswich, Caboolture, and Shorncliffe lines.

During morning peak hour, Caboolture trains now run at 6 minute frequencies all stations to Petrie, then express to Northgate, then all stations to Brisbane’s inner city stations. Sweeper trains depart Petrie one minute after the Caboolture trains, also at 6 minute intervals. Ipswich trains now run at 6 minute frequencies all stations to Darra, then express to Indooroopilly then on to Brisbane’s inner city stations, while sweeper trains from Richlands depart Darra one minute after the alternate Ipswich trains, at a 12 minute frequency.

The new timetable squeezes the most out of possible slots, particularly on the Caboolture line, which has recently been triplicated north to Petrie. This line is the main North Coast line from Brisbane to Cairns and is also a critical freight route, with some major customers choosing just-in-time freight transit rather than warehousing in North Queensland.

The Corinda via Tennyson line has been closed in favour of bus route improvements that integrate better with the Boggo Road Busway.

TransLink has also responded to rail timetable changes with many of its bus service providers, with route and timetable adjustments that dramatically improve bus-rail integration.

The other half of Brisbane’s rail network; the Cleveland, Beenleigh, Gold Coast, Airport and Doomben lines’ timetables are slated for a major overhaul later in 2011.

Meanwhile, the 1.05km Eastern Busway between the South East Busway at Buranda and Langlands Park at Coorparoo West, which incorporates two new stations, two underpasses and a new bridge over Norman Creek, is nearing completion. This new section of busway, although short, is expected to have significant benefits in bypassing the Stones Corner and Woolloongabba traffic bottlenecks. Announcements have not been made on which bus routes are expected to be rerouted onto this busway, although it is expected that the longer distance Redlands / Brisbane routes, operated by Veolia, will use the busway while some shorter distance all-stops Carindale / Brisbane routes operated by BT will remain on Old Cleveland Road.

Our Next National Conference

Title: Linking Communities Growing liveability and accessibility

Dates: 10 – 12 August 2011 (Two day conference then workshops on the 12th)

Location: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre