

Bicycle Network Mandatory Helmet Review

Opinion of Maurie Abbott, [title], [organisation]

1. *Do you believe it should be mandatory to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle? (If you believe it should be mandatory at some times but not others please describe when.)*

I think it is highly advisable to wear a helmet when riding a bike. I always wear a helmet and would continue to do so even if it was optional. I also ensure any children in my care also wear helmets when riding. However, I think it should be optional for riders using the public bike systems because these systems will never achieve a high level of usage until people can use them without all the helmet issues. On a quick decision, a rider should be able to jump on a public bike without a helmet. I would be happy to use one of these bikes without a helmet for short rides. These bikes will mainly be used for short trips, they are usually a heavier simple stable utility bike that generally will not be ridden at high speed. The health and transport solution advantages would hopefully outweigh any crash outcomes. I don't know what the data might indicate but this could be obtained by a 12 month trial and would be a good starting point. It may be difficult to have one group of riders where helmets are optional and another with a compulsory requirement. It is worth a try, otherwise make it optional for all with education and publish the statistics yearly. Continuing to provide more improved safer bike riding infrastructure is a very high priority and would reduce risks.

2. *What's your reasons for your answer to question one?*

Helmets are optional in most countries and in particular where there is a high level of usage for transport. There must be a lot of crash/injury statistics for the countries where helmets are optional. Get it, publish it.

I have ridden a public bike in central Copenhagen without a helmet and felt very safe. Most people were wearing normal clothes and few had helmets. In Stockholm ,I noticed that what appeared to be longer distance riders (wearing lycra and perhaps riding in from the outlying suburbs) had helmets and most of the other riders did not wear helmets.

Making bike riding easy for everyone

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3. *Do you provide consent for your opinion to be made public?*

Yes

4. *If no, are you happy if we say you provided an opinion but didn't want it made publicly available?*

Yes No

Signed: Maurie Abbott

Date: 12th October 2017

BN member Nr 146053

Member : Banyule Bicycle User Group Inc.

Please send completed form to craigr@bicyclenetwork.com.au before 5pm, Friday 13 October, 2017.

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