

Minutes

Subject: May Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 2 May 2024 **Time:** 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: WGTP Information Centre

Apologies: Pradeep Tiwari, Steve Wilson, Arthur Bregiannis, Adrian Havryluk, Adam Bright, Glen Yates, Ebru Saglam, Shane D'Rozario

Attendees

Community Members	Group/Association Members
(CF) Con Frescos, Yarraville	(GB) Garry Brennan, Bike Network Victoria
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	(GM) Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek
(MDL) Marlon De Leon, Tarneit	MRPV Representatives
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	(MO) Michael O'Sullivan, Director Delivery, West Gate Tunnel Project, Major Road Projects Victoria (WGTP MRPV)
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(LE) Liz Evans, Deputy Director Engagement, WGTP MRPV
(PG) Peter Gerrand, West and North Melbourne	(DM) Douglas Morris, Manager Community Relations, WGTP MRPV
(FS) Ferdinand Saliba, Deer Park	(HT) Harley Thomas, Engagement Coordinator, WGTP MRPV
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	(CA) Cyrus Alorro, Project Manager, WGTP MRPV
(FA) Fran Araneda, Kensington	(SF) Shenell Fransz, Graduate, WGTP MRPV
(SS) Senthill Sundaram, Point Cook	Transurban Representatives
Council Members	(MR) Melanie Ryan, Senior Manager - Strategic Communications and Engagement, Transurban
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	(SF) Scott Frazer, Environmental Manager, Transurban
(NH) Neil Hutchinson, City of Melbourne	Joint Venture Representatives
(EM) Eloise McGurn, City of Melbourne	(MM) Melissa Merrett, Communications and Marketing Manager, CPBJH JV
	(MU) Mario Urban, Senior Communications, Community & Stakeholder Relations Manager, CPBJH JV
	(SB) Simon Ballard, Director Building Management, CPBJH JV
	(CG) Christian Green, Stakeholder & Community Engagement Lead – East, CPBJH JV
	(MS) Mladen Stojanovic, Structures Manager, CPBJH JV

Agenda Items

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.30 pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair (Kim Jordan)
5.35 pm	2	WGTP MRPV update	WGTP MRPV (Liz Evans)
5.50 pm	4	West update	CPBJH (Melissa Merrett & Mladen Stojanovic)
6.05 pm	5	East update	CPBJH (Christian Green & Mladen Stojanovic)
6.20 pm	6	Tunnels update	CPBJH (Melissa Merrett & Simon Ballard)
6.35 pm	7	BREAK	All
6.45 pm	8	Actions update	All
7.00 pm	9	Member questions	CLG members
7.30 pm	10	Thank you and close	Chair (Kim Jordan)

Introduction

- (KJ) Provided an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed attendees in person and online, and mentioned apologies for the night.
- Introduced Christian Green to the group, who has joined CPBJH JV as the Stakeholder and Engagement Lead for the East zone.

WGTP MTIA update

- (LE) There has been recent media about project progress and about the coloured barriers along the West Gate Freeway, and a bright colour palette incorporated in the design across the project.

Grants and Partnerships – Liz Evans

- (LE) West Gate Neighbourhood Fund latest round closed on the 18th of March, and more than 125 applications received. Successful applicants expected to be announced in coming weeks.
- There have been some great recent milestones including new scoreboards for local sports clubs.

Construction Update

West Zone – Melissa Merrett & Mladen Stojanovic

- (MM) Since the last CLG meeting, there have been several community enquiries seeking information about why roads are being closed before advertised start times. The traffic teams have reviewed these enquiries and while signage and equipment was on site in preparation for the road closures, they did not come into effect until advertised start time. All mulching is undertaken by the project builders' landscape contractor with strict protocols and processes in place to reduce any likelihood of contaminated materials being mixed in.
- Community engagement continues with freight industry and local businesses around freeway works in the west, particularly relating to gantries that continue to be installed.
- (MS) Gantries being installed on the West Gate Freeway are some of the biggest in Melbourne. 11 gantries have been lifted into place over the last few weeks, with 14 gantries still to come. The size and scale of these lifts require either full freeway or lane closures.
- The Williamstown Road outbound exit ramp is now in its final configuration, with two exit lanes becoming four lanes at the intersection with Melbourne Road. Asphaltting has also been completed, with only landscaping works remaining.
- Asphaltting season is nearing completion, which has seen multiple ramps, roads and bridges having final asphalt laid, including the Hyde Street Ramps. Final asphalt on the West Gate Freeway between Millers Road and east of Williamstown Road will occur around October.

East Zone – Mario Urban & Mladen Stojanovic

- (MU) There have been overnight closures of the Footscray Road walking and cycling path for elevated road works. Check ins with local businesses around the District Docklands have occurred to ensure they are kept up to date with disruptions in the area. Consultation with Marvel Stadium is ongoing to ensure upcoming works are managed around AFL games and major events.
- (MS) 60 veloway segments for Stage 1 of the elevated cycling path are being assembled at the Footscray Road flower market. Works to install will begin 21 May, with various single and double lane closures on Footscray Road until late August. There will be closures of the walking and cycling path along Footscray Road, between Shepherd Bridge and Pearl River Road from Tuesday 21 May to Sunday 16 June 2024 to facilitate these works.
- Stage 2 of the veloway works involves a full eastbound closure from mid-August through to early September. The Veloway will be fully installed by October, and will then be fitted out with CCTV, lighting, and other finishing works.
- Maribyrnong River bridges are nearing completion, with the final concrete pour on the main bridge structure commencing next week. By the end of June most work will be done. External bridge cladding installation has begun on the Mackenzie Road exit ramp and is due for completion by October.
- All concrete deck pours have occurred on the new ramp to the West Gate Tunnel Project that goes over CityLink. Works along the elevated road continue with asphaltting, the installation of light fixtures and painting works.
- Works at the Footscray Road pedestrian and cycling cable bridge include civil works and connecting the northern and southern sides as well as installing feature lighting, CCTV, slip resistant coating and fixing the final panels on the bridge structure.
- The final section of asphalt is being laid on the Wurundjeri Way extension. There will be no more major closures of Wurundjeri Way.
- Final asphalt has been laid on the Dynon Road Bridge with completion expected by the end of May.

East Zone questions

- **Q:** (KR) How long will the non-slip coating on the new cable bridge path last?
- **A:** (MS) Exact timing is unknown but can follow up and come back.
- **Q:** (CF) Can something be done about the road condition and lighting on Footscray Road as visibility is poor at night underneath the new cable bridge?
- **A:** (MS) Footscray Road will be resurfaced by the end of this year. We will look at the lighting and see what can be done.

Tunnel zone – Melissa Merrett & Simon Ballard

- (MM) Regarding Harris Street shared path construction, engagement with local businesses continues in preparation for the upcoming Whitehall Street closure to build the new walking and cycling bridge overhead.
- (SB) Concrete barriers at Harris Street will be lifted in August as part of the next stage of works in that area.
- Freeway control centre building structurally complete.
- The Ventilation structure at the northern portal is approximately one third of the final height, while the West Gate Freeway ventilation structure is approximately 50% of height.
- The fitting out of both tunnels continues, with extensive electrical, drainage and conduiting, wall panels, lighting and lane signs being installed.
- The ventilation of the tunnels aims to give the tunnels a constant flow of fresh air, powered by large jet fans. The jet fans help support the flow of emissions to the ventilation structure where the 7.2m diameter ventilation fans (4 fans at the northern end and 5 at the southern end) operate to safely extract emissions. Air quality monitoring is a requirement post opening.

Tunnel Zone Questions

- **Q:** (PG) Are simulations on managing air quality run?
- **A:** (SB) Modelling has been done to ensure that all vehicle types have been catered for with the ventilation system. The jet fan system has been designed so that if at any point one fan is not working, it will not impact the ventilation system.

- **Q:** (GM) What will be monitored in the ventilation structures and what happens if all the fans go out?
- **A:** (SB) The monitors will measure various gases such as carbon dioxide. There are two power sources for the project in the event of an outage as well as an uninterrupted power supply system, which can last for 6-8 hours.

- **Q:** (KJ) If there is a crash or a fire in the tunnels, what is the process?
- **A:** (SB) The tunnel has a smoke duct at the top as well as a maintenance shaft underneath each tunnel. Every 100 metres there are dampers that open to take the smoke into the smoke duct and 5 fans at each end of the tunnels, which move the smoke out of the tunnel.

- **Q:** (GM) Will the monitoring reports of the ventilation structures be available to the public?
- **A:** (SF) There is a requirement to publish those reports up to 5 years after the project opens on a quarterly basis.

Break (6:35PM)

Actions update.

Action ALL3: CPBJH / TU to follow up on earliest reopening of Federation Trail between Millers Road and Fogarty Avenue.

- Action to remain open.
- (MO) It is not just this section where parties need to reach an agreement about reopening. They all have different management regimes. We're currently reviewing all shared paths across the project to determine what can be opened to the public before project completion.

Action ALL4: CPBJH/TU to follow up on opening the Kororoit Creek shared path as soon as possible.

Action to remain open.

(GM) Noted that the path is being accessed and used by community members daily, despite it supposedly being monitored and kept closed by the builder. There is a lot of frustration over the path remaining closed while maintenance responsibilities are being determined.

(MO) Advised that project parties will be working to reach an agreement by the end of the month.

Action: CPBJH / TU to provide an update on the maintenance program for graffiti during construction.

- Action agreed to be closed because there will be an update at each CLG meeting.
- (MS) There has been multiple graffiti areas removed across the project, including West Gate Freeway, Williamstown Road ramps, Hyde Street ramps and Kororoit Creek shared user path since the last meeting.
- JV will provide updates at each meeting regarding graffiti removal that has taken place and is planned.

Member questions and comments

Comments

- (GM) The community is keen to understand what the project will do should the air quality being monitored through the ventilation structures not meet the required standards and how quickly the operator will act once they have this information.
- (GM) Requested to have a walkthrough of the Kororoit Creek trail in advance of the works associated with the Cultural Heritage package, as the path and landscaping looks finished despite the requirement for consultation on indigenous planting.
- (BB) Reinforced that the current condition of the Federation Trail path from Geelong Road to Millers Road is very poor due to sub-surface clay composition. It was confirmed that this area is subject to upgrade as part of the West Gate Tunnel Project scope and the full depth of path will be restored and re-surfaced in asphalt.
- (IE) Requested project representatives have a meeting with Sports Clubs at Donald McLean and Hobsons Bay City Council representatives regarding the fencing at the back of the oval and the poor drainage overflow that is impacting the sporting ground and surrounds. The sporting clubs also want a solution to retrieve sporting balls that go over the boundary fence, as there is no gate access.
(MM) The swale drains built by the Project have been built to standard and in conjunction with discussions with Hobsons Bay Council. The area behind the fence is still an active construction site, so access cannot be provided at this time.
(IE) The sporting clubs have not been involved in any discussions between council and the project so it would be beneficial to arrange this, so they can have their concerns addressed.
- (IB) Request for interpretive artwork package to be presented at the next meeting.
- (FS) Attended the information centre recently with a group of cyclists, thanks to Ivan from the Centre, who explained the new walking and cycling infrastructure that the project will deliver.

Questions

- **Q:** (FA) Can we have an update on the horseshoe bridge design?
- **A:** (MO) Construction is continuing in a practical sense to build the straight alignment. There is final paperwork to be closed out. A request for images of the approved design to be shown at the June CLG meeting was noted.
- **Q:** (NH) What is the impact to landscaping with the new straight bridge design package?
- **A:** (MO) Both designs have similar impacts with the straight alignment resulting in a handful of extra trees.
- **Q:** (NH) Could we get a list of timelines for the early opening of new walking and cycling paths?
- **A:** (MR) Will take question on notice.
- (SS) Also requested to see this for the West Zone.
- **Q:** (DR) Has the project funded any of the area redevelopments that have been affected by asbestos in the west?
- **A:** (LE) For some of the affected parks, West Gate Tunnel Project provided funding to Hobsons Bay City Council to deliver. As these upgrades were managed by Council and don't fall under the project's responsibility, Council is leading the investigations and clean-up.
(IB) Parks and open spaces were investigated by Council and EPA. Majority of sites were compromised due to old legacy issues with asbestos dumped before mulch went on to that site.

- **Q:** (IE) A temporary wall was erected opposite the Emma McLean kindergarten, and residents want to know what the plan is for the removal of this wall? Can the affected residents along The Avenue between Forrest and Hope Street be notified when these works do take place?
- **A:** (MM) The kindergarten has been advised that the wall will be removed soon, and we will inform the affected residents.

Meeting close (7:30PM)

- (KJ) Closed the meeting by thanking members in person and online.
- Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place on Thursday June 13, 2024.