

Minutes

Subject: March Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 21 March 2024 **Time:** 5:15-7:30pm

Location: WGTP Information Centre

Apologies: Con Frescos, Fran Araneda, Adrian Ashford, Geoff Mitchelmore, Lee Sznalowski, Steve Wilson, Claude Manno, Adam Bright, Pradeep Tiwari, Marlon De Leon, Melissa Merrett, Melanie Ryan

Attendees

Community Members	Group/Association Members
(AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville	(GB) Garry Brennan, Bike Network
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	(GY) Glen Yates, Maribyrnong Truck Action Group (MTAG)
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	MTIA Representatives
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(SDR) Shane D'Rozario, Director Operation, West Gate Tunnel Project, Major Transport Infrastructure Authority (WGTP MTIA)
(PG) Peter Gerrand, West and North Melbourne	(LE) Liz Evans, Deputy Director Engagement, WGTP MTIA
(FS) Ferdinand Saliba, Deer Park	(DM) Douglas Morris, Manager Community Relations, WGTP MTIA
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	(HT) Harley Thomas, Engagement Coordinator, WGTP MTIA
(SS) Senthill Sundaram, Point Cook	(CA) Cyrus Alorro, Project Manager, WGTP MTIA
Council Members	(SF) Shenell Fransz, Graduate, WGTP MTIA
(AH) Adrian Havryluk, Maribyrnong City Council	Transurban Representatives
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	(TO) Tamara Ortegon, Environmental Coordinator, Transurban
(NH) Neil Hutchinson, City of Melbourne	(CW) Courtney Woodford, Engineering Director, Transurban
(EM) Eloise McGurn, City of Melbourne	(KN) Kathryn Norton, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Lead, Transurban
	Joint Venture Representatives
	(CD) Christian Dolezal, Manager, Stakeholder & Community Relations – Tunnels, CPBJH JV
	(SC) Samantha Choudhury, Communications and Marketing Manager, CPBJH JV
	(MU) Mario Urban, Construction Manager, CPBJH JV
	(TS) Tim Spawton, Environmental Manager, CPBJH JV
	Tract Representatives
	(TB) Tezcan Birgin, Landscape Architect, Tract

Agenda Items

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.15 pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair (Kim Jordan)
5.20 pm	2	WGTP MTIA update	WGTP MTIA (Liz Evans & Douglas Morris)
5.30 pm	3	WGTP Landscaping	CPBJH/Tract (Tim Spawton & Tezcan Birgin)
5.50 pm	4	West update	CPBJH (Mario Urban)
6.05 pm	5	East update	CPBJH (Mario Urban)
6.20 pm	6	Tunnels update	CPBJH (Christian Dolezal)
6.35 pm	7	BREAK	All
6.50 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) Gave an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed attendees in person as well as those joining online, and mentioned the apologies for the night.
- Welcomed Tim Spawton from CPBJH JV and Tezcan Birgin from Tract who will be speaking to landscaping on the project and noted some impending departures from the Project of Christian Dolezal and Samantha Choudry from CPBJH, thanking them for their contribution to the Project.

WGTP MTIA update

Grants and Partnerships – Liz Evans

- (LE) The final round of West Gate Neighbourhood Fund grants closed on Monday 18 March and a great result with more than 125 applications received.
- The team will now begin reviewing applications, with the successful applicants to be announced in May and funded projects needing to be delivered before the end of project. 120 projects have been funded through previous grants rounds and the broad ranging projects are providing many benefits for the communities of Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay who have been impacted by long term construction.

Community Outreach – Douglas Morris

- (DM) There has again been a very busy period of outreach over the last six weeks, with the team heading out to Altona Gate, the Wyndham Multicultural Festival in Point Cook, and hosting several activations at The District Docklands.
- Altona Gate and Wyndham focused on informing community about the traffic switch that occurred mid-February outbound on the West Gate Freeway. The focus at The District Docklands was on walking and cycling connections to the city, with the recently installed walking and cycling cable bridge over Footscray Road.
- The team were also down at Yarraville Festival last Sunday 18 March, with over 400 people spoken to on the day and the team answering many questions from local community.

Landscaping – Tim Spawton and Tezcan Birgin

- (TS) West Gate Tunnel Project is delivering over 9 hectares of new green open space, made up of parks and wetlands. Additionally, a significant offset replanting initiative was set as one of the EPRs for the project.
- Trees recognised as having high retention value that were required to be removed are being replaced at a 5:1 ratio project wide. Not all trees removed were replaced at the 5:1 ratio with planted juvenile trees being replaced 1:1.
- Input from community members, water authorities and Councils has also helped to inform the plans for rehabilitating and landscaping on the project.
- More than 26,800 trees are being planted project wide. 5,100 trees are being replaced 5:1 with an additional 700 trees being replaced 1:1.
- The team looked at opportunities within the project corridor to plant trees, as the wording of the EPR is very specific. However, we will need to go outside of the project corridor to plant some trees, due to space constraints. There is a lot of coordination with landowners required before the planting gets underway.

- (TB) Landscape locations and species have been developed and decided through consultation with stakeholders, councils, and local groups, and to ensure that the species we plant will thrive. Species are predominantly Australian native as well as indigenous species where possible.

Landscaping questions

- **Q:** (IE) Is the nine hectares completely new open space and has cultural heritage been considered given proposed planting in certain locations such as Kororoit Creek?
- **A:** (LE) It is brand new open space. The project has a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in place which covers the discovery of potential culturally significant artefacts.
- **Q:** (BB) When will the Federation Trail be replanted?
- **A:** (TS) It is part of the package, so we will look to do that soon.
- **Q:** (BB) Can the areas behind the fencing at Primula Avenue and Beevers Street be planted with trees?
- **A:** (LE) Let's look at the landscape plans today but I understand that there are some fenced areas for future maintenance purposes by Transurban at both locations.
- **Q:** (PG) What is the boundary along Moonee Ponds Creek between this project and Metro Tunnel for replanting?
- **A:** (TS) Our project covers from Dynon Road through to Costco on Footscray Road.
- **Q:** (FS) What is the plan for watering these plants and giving them the best opportunity to survive, especially while they are young?
- **A:** (TS) The plants will be given the best opportunity to survive, with stringent requirements stating newly planted trees be watered within the first 8 hours and other periodic maintenance requirements in place. (TB) The planting program considers the best weather for planting trees, typically the autumn period, to ensure the best chance of survival.
- **Q:** (IB) Where are the plants sourced from and will the trees from areas which are now not suitable for planting be redistributed somewhere else?
- **A:** (TS) There are various suppliers that the landscaping sub-contractor uses, and seeds have also been taken from trees on the project. If there are new areas, we will meet the number of trees as per the design.

Construction Update – Mario Urban

West Zone

- (MU) One of the main communities' concerns over the last six weeks was traffic congestion in the inner west. Traffic movement around Millers Road and Grieve Parade was significant, and there was a problem with Google Maps inadvertently sending drivers along Primula Avenue from Geelong Road, which caused concern to local residents. This was resolved after discussions with the Google Maps team.
- West Gate Freeway signage was also identified as a key concern for outbound drivers heading to Geelong or the M80. It is confirmed that the signage is in the correct positions, and a new sign over Grieve Parade should also help alleviate driver confusion. The project will continue to monitor concerns related to signage.
- Major work is continuing at the Williamstown Road outbound off ramp. There are upcoming works set to take place around early April to asphalt a second lane on the off ramp which should assist in relieving traffic congestion and queuing.
- Resurfacing on the West Gate Freeway between the M80 interchange and Millers Road was completed on Friday 8 March, with new lanes now open in each direction. Drivers now have access to three carriageway lanes, known as the collector distributor as these allow for movements on and off the freeway, and three express lanes outbound, and two collector distributor lanes and three express lanes inbound, in this section of the freeway.
- Overhead gantries continue to be installed along the freeway, with some upcoming full closures of the West Gate Bridge and Princes Freeway.

West Zone questions

- **Q:** (IE) Easter works are occurring over the school holidays and with more people on the road, will those work impact that traffic flow?
- **A:** (MU) The main public holidays will be a shutdown period for workers, as well as some extra rostered days off during the Easter period, so this will reduce disruption.
- **Q:** (IE) Has there been a review done around the Williamstown Road interchange and signage in the area for Williamstown Road drivers heading south, as the middle lane that goes straight isn't visible to drivers until they are closer to the interchange.
- **A:** (SDR) There hasn't been one yet, but with the opening of the Williamstown Road inbound entry ramp to its full capacity of four lanes, it has helped ease congestion. Once the outbound entry ramp gets to full configuration; it will assist in the queuing problems.

East Zone – Samantha Choudhury

- (SC) Over the last six weeks, there has been several community issues managed by the project including residential noise complaints related to Wurundjeri Way works and traffic congestion and impacts to Docklands Primary School and local businesses.
- White noise machines and noise cancelling headphones were provided to residents as respite from the noisy works on Wurundjeri Way.
- A number of community engagement activations at The District Docklands were led by all parties to thank the community for their patience during recent Footscray Road closures.
- There have also been ongoing check-ins by all parties with Docklands Primary School to provide regular works updates to teachers, parents and students and there has been on-site monitoring at school pick up and drop off times due to changes during the construction period.
- Wurundjeri Way summer works concluded on Monday 4 March, with new lanes being opened at the Wurundjeri Way and Dudley Street intersection. During this closure, crews were able to complete final pavement and asphalt works. There will continue to be night-time lane closures on Wurundjeri Way until around the end of April to facilitate further works.
- On Footscray Road, the new green cable stayed pedestrian bridge has been installed. Centre spans were installed during the two-week closure of Footscray Road. Night-time lane closures will continue for cladding works and the installation of feature lighting.
- Veloway construction is set to begin late April, with the first pieces of the frame being assembled offsite to allow for easy installation. There will be long term lane closures along Footscray Road in both directions in April, the plan for impacts to the walking and cycling path is being developed for approval.

Tunnel zone – Christian Dolezal

- Community engagement at Harris Street for the new shared user path, with the installation of bike racks, timed parking signs, and additional lighting to assist local businesses and sporting clubs. Works notifications have advised the upcoming timber net structure works, as well as continued ventilation structure works at the northern portal.
- The Harris Street shared use path works are continuing, with stage two works set to begin late April. This will include pavement upgrades, crosshead construction, and delivering and lifting precast beams into place for bridge construction. Stage three works will then begin in August. Maribyrnong Council will be re-constructing Cowper Street.
- The tunnel fit out includes fire systems and thousands of kilometres of cables being installed which is a huge program to complete the fit out.
- At the ventilation structures, the southern outbound structure concrete base has been built and chimney construction has begun. This will be close to 50 metres in height once complete. The northern structure on Whitehall Street currently stands at 18.6 metres tall and will be close to 50 metres at completion.
- The timber net structure at the southern inbound portal is being planned for installation in May-June. These structures will be 35-40m in height.

Tunnel Zone Questions

- **Q:** (PG) Can we have a presentation on how the tunnel ventilation works in a future meeting?
- **A:** (CD) Yes this can be looked at.
- **Q:** (GY) Crane trucks servicing the Project are breaking curfews on local roads, can we please ensure project subcontractors are being reminded about these curfews?
- **A:** (CD) I will follow up with the relevant teams to notify the subcontractors and provide a written response back to MTAG.

- **Q:** (GY) Noted the overrun by one month of the sewer pit works on the corner of Somerville Road. What processes are in place for engagement with CLG members to notify around road closures as these works were not advised directly to MTAG.
- **A:** (CD) North Yarra Main Sewer works unfortunately ran over time due to services being discovered. The project engages with parties such as Council, DTP, Bicycle Network and it is acknowledged that MTAG were inadvertently missed on this occasion.

Break (6:30PM)

Actions update.

Action: CPBJH to confirm total number of trees to be replaced and removed.

- The details were provided in the landscaping update at this meeting. This item can be closed out.

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

- (SDR) Parties continuing to work through a reopening, there is still work to be done. Arrangement must be agreed around the maintenance of the path once it opens, and tie ins with other precincts in the area.

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

- (SDR) Kororoit Creek shared path is in the same situation as the Federation Trail.

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

- (MU) Team has removed graffiti between Millers Road and Grieve Parade, as well as the noise walls on the Williamstown Road outbound exit ramp.

Member questions and comments

Comments

- (BB) Paringa Road crossing for pedestrians continues to be an issue as vehicles turning left to the outbound freeway ramp are not always giving way to pedestrians.
- (SDR) We will review in conjunction with Dept of Transport and Planning to see if there is potential to give pedestrians a head start, or possibly look at putting coloured markings on the crossing.
- (GY) Fantastic to see many people attending the WGT info van at the Yarraville Festival. The event site near the railway line was very visible to people and very well ran.
- (NH) City of Melbourne does not agree with the tree definition adopted by the project for the tree replacement ratio. In particular to trees being excluded from the replacement ratio of 5:1 based on tree height, Useful Life Expectancy (ULE), maturity and planted vs seeded trees and is of the view that the 5:1 ratio should be applied to these classification of removed trees.

Questions

- **Q:** (IB) When is the Millers Road interchange pedestrian lighting to be completed as residents don't feel safe walking at night.
- **A:** (MU) We will take on notice and provide an update before the next meeting.
- **Q:** (FS) Can the situation about the Federation Trail path opening be elaborated on?
- **A:** (SDR) The contract doesn't include early opening of new assets such as paths, so the maintenance arrangements and who is responsible for it needs to be worked out.
- **Q:** (AH) How will E-bikes, E-scooters and food delivery services be managed on the Veloway, extra signs may be required to control speed.
- **A:** (LE) The veloway is wider than any other shared path on the Project at 4 metres and acknowledged the increased use of business and private scooters on the network. (SDR) The Veloway is not built for pedestrians. (KN) CCTV cameras will be installed and Transurban will monitor during operation.
- **Q:** (KR) When will the Kororoit Creek Road exit from the freeway be finished and is the Project aware of a line marking kink on the Princes Freeway which is confusing for drivers?
- **A:** (SDR) Final line marking is going into place between the M80 and Kororoit Creek Road by Easter.

OFFICIAL

- **Q:** (IE) Fence at Donald McLean reserve positioning has now gone up; clubs are concerned about accessing their lost balls behind the fence?
- **A:** (MU) Will provide a written answer on this offline.
- **Q:** (PG) Is there an update on horseshoe bridge design?
- **A:** (SDR) The straight alignment design is going through final reviews.
- **Q:** (DR) Coming from the M80 ring road to the freeway, can we get a sign earlier on to say that Millers Road access can only come from left hand lanes?
- **A:** (SDR) Will take that on notice and report back.
- **Q:** (GB) Read that Old Melbourne Road will be sealed near the entry to the Brooklyn Waste Facility plus a new entry constructed – this is right where the Fed Trail goes through – what's the impact to Fed Trail?
- **A:** (LE) Thanks for raising, we will look into these works which do sound like a positive and will report back to the group.
- **Q:** (KJ) On behalf of Con who is absent, is there an update on Kindred Café engagement?
- **A:** (CD) Checks are being done constantly with the business and engagement and consultation with them is ongoing.
- **Q:** (GY) MTAG has recently been advised 56 super loads will be travelling through Yarraville from March through to June. Will there be FB comms and mailbox drops in the local area? Which logistics company will be used for the non-super load movements?
- **A:** (CD) Will come back to MTAG in writing.
- **Q:** (AB) How far back do the dividers that separate the carriageway lanes and express lanes go back?
- **A:** (SDR) Drivers from Ballarat and Geelong will need to make their decision before the M80 interchange on what lanes they need to travel in, depending on if they are exiting the freeway, going into the tunnel, to Hyde Street ramps or to the West Gate Bridge. Overhead signage to identify this need to decide will be in place from as far back as Laverton.
- **Q:** (IB) Will there be a presentation to members on public and indigenous art?
- **A:** (TS) We are finalising the interpretive artwork design packages, and we can give a briefing on these in the June meeting.
- **Q:** (DR) Who is responsible for the traffic counters on Millers Road?
- **A:** (LE) Will take on notice but likely managed by the Department of Transport and Planning.
- **Q:** (DR) Has there been a study on any noise that may be generated from the timber net structure, further to noise that was experienced at the West Gate Freeway pedestrian overpasses?
- **A:** (CD) Yes, it has been tested against wind generated noise and there are no anticipated issues.
- **Q:** (GY) Safe Work Australia has put forward a recommendation to the Work Health Safety Ministers that a workplace exposure limit (WEL) for diesel particulate matter (DPM) be implemented recommending that employees not be exposed to a certain level of PM2.5 over an eight-hour time weighted average WEL. With the control centre being right under the northern portal, is a closed HVAC system being installed and will there be IAQ monitors installed throughout the control centre to protect the Transurban team members??
- **A:** (KN) Not aware of any air quality monitoring occurring at the control centre.

Meeting close (7:40PM)

- (KJ) Closed the meeting by thanking members in person and online.
- Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place on Thursday May 2.