

Minutes

Subject: June Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 13 June 2024 **Time:** 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: WGTP Information Centre

Apologies: Fran Araneda, Peter Gerrand, Glen Yates, Adam Bright, Pradeep Tiwari, Senthill Sundaram, Marlon De Leon, Claude Manno, Adrian Ashford, Douglas Morris, Mario Urban, Cyrus Alorro, Adrian Havryluk

Attendees

Community Members	WGTP Major Road Projects representatives
(CF) Con Frescos, Yarraville	(SDR) Shane D'Rozario, Chief Operating Officer
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	(LE) Liz Evans, Deputy Director Engagement, WGTP MRPV
(FS) Ferdinand Saliba, Deer Park	(EA) Emily Alvis, Deputy Director Grants & Partnerships
(AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville	(HT) Harley Thomas, Engagement Coordinator, WGTP MRPV
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	(ES) Ebru Saglam, Deputy Director Technical
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(GL) Geoff Liu, A/Community Relations Manager
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	(SC) Sheldon Clark, Senior Engagement Officer
Council Members	Transurban Representatives
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	(MF) Marcus Fosterling, Surface Manager
(NH) Neil Hutchinson, City of Melbourne	(AV) Amanda Venda, Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead
	(AO) Ashleigh Oldham, WHS Advisor
(EM) Eloise McGurn, City of Melbourne	Joint Venture Representatives
Group/Association Members	(MM) Melissa Merrett, Communications and Marketing Manager
(GB) Garry Brennan, Bike Network Victoria	(TS) Tim Spawton, Environment, Sustainability & Planning Manager
(GM) Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek	(SB) Simon Ballard, Director Building Management
(SW) Steve Wilson, Friends of Stony Creek	(CG) Christian Green, Stakeholder & Community Engagement Lead – East
	(CF) Charlie Fairbairn, Director – Civil and Surface Works
	(NED) Nur Ezzati Daud – Environment, Sustainability & Planning Advisor

Agenda Items

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.30pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair (Kim Jordan)
5.35 pm	2	WGTP MRPV update	WGTP MRPV (Liz Evans & Emily Alvis)
5.50 pm	3	Tunnels Update	CPBJH (Melissa Merrett & Simon Ballard)
6.05 pm	4	West Update	CPBJH (Melissa Merrett & Charlie Fairbairn)
6.20 pm	5	East Update	CPBJH (Christian Green & Charlie Fairbairn)
6.35 pm	6	BREAK	All
6.45 pm	7	Actions update	All
7.00 pm	8	Member questions	CLG members
7.30 pm	9	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 Amanda Venda who is the new Community and Stakeholder Engagement Lead for Transurban.
- Tim Spawton CPBJH and Nur Ezzati Daud CPBJH, providing an update to the interpretive design artwork package.

Questions received, and follow-ups from previous meeting.

- (KJ) Noted there were questions from FA who requested images of the new straight shared path design (previously known as the 'Horseshoe bridge') near Moonee Ponds Creek and whether interpretive artwork would be incorporated into the design. KJ noted TS will speak to this during the meeting, as was requested at the previous meeting.
- (KJ) Updated the members that a meeting was held between WGTP MRPV, TU, JV, and sporting clubs regarding the Donald McLean fencing action, the meeting was attended by member IE. The matters are being actioned offline.
- (KJ) Requested an update on timelines for early opening of shared user paths as raised by NH and SS. (MF) An update was provided that the discussions between project parties were ongoing, but no timelines can be provided at this stage. Some areas are still under construction, and all shared user paths will be opened by the end of the project. (KR) Raised concerns regarding lack of detail around reasons for the delays in opening and asked to have a more comprehensive update to that point and also to understand where within the project the responsibilities lie. (FS) Requested to have further detailed information regarding the reopening of shared user paths, including dates of opening and who is responsible. He noted that this has been ongoing for two years and is frustrating. (KJ) As independent Chair, noted the members' frustration as there have been repeated requests for information over many meetings. She said it would be appreciated if some transparency to the issues and a timeline for opening be provided, in line with past requests.
- (KJ) Lighting under the Footscray Road cable bridge be looked at, as it was very dark driving under there while driving, is there follow up from the JV?
(CG) No update on this one, will follow up again.

WGTP MTIA update

Grants and Partnerships – Emily Alvis

- (EA) On Friday 31 May, more than 90 new projects worth \$1.4 million were announced as part of the latest West Gate Neighbourhood Fund grants and partnerships.
- There was a total of 131 applications to work through in this round.
- There was around \$200,00 awarded to festivals and events, \$160,000 to sporting clubs and community groups, \$250,000 invested into one-off projects and activities and nine larger partnerships were announced worth more than \$800,000 to improve open space, upgrade sport, scout and community infrastructure and connect communities.

CLG Bus tour – Liz Evans

- (LE) As previously mentioned at past meetings, the July CLG meeting will be replaced with a bus tour of the project zone.
- This tour will include visits to West Zone landmarks including the Hyde Street ramps, Federation Trail, Williamstown Road, and West Gate Freeway down to Kororoit Creek Road.
- East Zone landmarks will include Footscray Road, the Wurundjeri Way extension and Dynon Road.

Construction Update

Tunnel zone – Melissa Merrett & Simon Ballard

- (MM) We have been working with Maribyrnong City Council regarding parking around Cowper Street and the conjunction of Council and project works.
- Some additional temporary lighting has also been installed along Harris Street while the project is building the new shared path along this street.
- Engagement has been focused on Harris Street works, with Stage 2 underway. Conversations and engagement with the local businesses and sporting clubs are ongoing.
- (SB) Harris Street works are progressing well, with all bridge beams being installed and the street opened to a one-way traffic configuration. Next works will involve the construction of the bridge over Whitehall Street in August. This will connect into the new path that will run alongside the northern tunnel portal and new wetlands.
- Southern inbound portal has involved works such as smoke duct vent installation and concrete deck pours. At the northern tunnel portal, the maintenance building is currently being built, with pre-casting beginning. The ventilation structure still has around 30 metres to go and will be around 50 metres in height once complete.
- The green gantry crane at the northern tunnel site will be disassembled over the next month and the small maintenance shed will be dismantled. Where the small green gantry crane is currently sitting is where the Compensatory Storage Basin or North Portal Wetlands will sit. The storage basin/wetlands are designed to mitigate risks associated with flooding at the Northern Portal area.
- At the southern ventilation structure, there is around another 25m to go to get to the top of the structure, and the works where the TBM was extracted will be complete by September. Once that is complete, you will be able to walk from the tunnel entrance up to the freeway.

Tunnel Questions

Q: (AB) Questioned if the wetland has an outlet to the Maribyrnong River?

A: (SB) Confirmed yes it will run into the river.

West Zone – Melissa Merrett & Charlie Fairbairn

- (MM) There have been new pavement markings installed on the West Gate Freeway outbound. There is no further update to Federation Trail, we have begun landscaping at Primula Avenue behind the maintenance fence.
- Hyde Street has had issues raised by cyclists due to asphaltting works on the road. All traffic management was approved, and all work has now been complete down there, with all line markings in and the road in its ultimate configuration.
- (CF) The Hyde Street walking and cycling path is very well advanced, there are a few panels still missing, and landscaping is yet to occur, but we are beginning to complete final works on the path. The

path cannot open early due to works still occurring at the southern inbound portal, which the path crosses over the top of.

- Overhead gantries continue to be installed along the freeway, with 55 out of 58 in place, and further signage continuing to be installed. Fitting out these gantries includes ITS works, CCTV cameras and variable speed limit signage.
- New lane markings have been installed on the outbound freeway, which was implemented to help motorists who were experiencing confusion when heading to the M80 Ring Road or Princes Freeway. Both carriageway line markings have had these marked on the road, with potential further signage being looked at, but response has been positive.

West Zone Questions

- **Q:** (DR) People are having issues from Millers Road collector distributor lanes in trying to get to M80 and traffic is banking up all the way to the Rosala pedestrian bridge, is there any way for this to be resolved?
- **A:** (CF) Commented that this section has been built to the ultimate arrangement and that we are aware of traffic issues at this section. The project does allow for further expansion to tie into the M80. (SDR) We will take that feedback onboard to try and understand what is happening there.

East Zone – Christian Green, Marcus Forsterling & Charlie Fairbairn

- (CG) A cyclist detour is currently in place via Dynon Road due to Footscray Road shared path closure. We have reached out to businesses along Dynon Road to inform them of the increased cyclist traffic due to the detour. We have had pop-up events along Footscray Road to inform cyclists of the changes and an event is being held at Good Cycles in Docklands on 19 June to further engage with stakeholders.
- (MF) Transurban acknowledged recent flooding of the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail due to rain and king tides, noting the public was not immediately advised to use the detour route. They confirmed that the flood detection system in the area would manage water levels and TU would have the area monitored during high tides to ensure its effectiveness.
- (CF) There is a new diversion around the CityLink on ramp at Dynon Road, which means cyclists do not have to cross the ramp to the freeway. The Moonee Ponds Creek Trail has also been re-built which removes the need to cross Dynon Road. One of the pontoons in this area is also being demobilised.
- Veloway construction has begun, with about 9 segments installed so far. The segments are assembled at the Footscray Flower Market and then being lifted into place via crane.
- At the Maribyrnong River bridges, the external bridge cladding will be installed over the next week. All the bridges will be fully clad by the end of the year.
- Footscray Road walking and cycling path is temporarily shut until the end of June due to a stage of the Veloway installation works. There has been a change to the design at Dock Link Road intersection, where new signals will be installed at the previous left turn slip lane when exiting the Port.
- The bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek has been redesigned from a 'Horseshoe' design, to now be a straight alignment which is awaiting final approval.
- The Wurundjeri Way extension bridge has had asphalt laid, and overhead sign gantries will be installed shortly.
- All road decks have been completed on the new elevated interchange which connects into Dynon Road and Wurundjeri Way. This will be a signalised intersection when finished.

East Zone Questions

- **Q:** (GM) Is there an update on graffiti?
- **A:** (CF) We have been removing the graffiti progressively.
- (KJ) For future meetings it would be good to have a slide on where graffiti has been removed since the last meeting.

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.
- (NH) Requested to formalise a previous informal action from the last meeting requesting a timeline for the opening of the new shared path bridge over the railway crossing at Dynon Road.

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

- Action to remain open.
- (GM) Reiterated that Kororoit Creek shared user path isn't officially open, however people are using it anyway as the project are not closing it off. Would this be a safety issue if someone falls and injures themselves?

Interpretative Artwork – Tim Spawton

- (TS) For interpretive Indigenous artwork, the project is split in half between two different groups, one being Wurundjeri land and the other Bunurong.
- At the Northern Portal – Maribyrnong River, the boardwalk features Indigenous elements, including a custom boomerang seat, perforated steel screen to convey stories, language carved into the timber seat battens and traditional patterns on precast seat and concrete paving. These were co designed with Traditional Owners.
- At the Moonee Ponds Creek bridge, interpretive artwork covers 65m of the 80m shared path, incorporating traditional pattern on precast benches, and concrete pavement, as well as perforated steel panel screens to convey stories.
- Kororoit Creek will be transformed by incorporating a Yarning Circle into the area, and the landscaping features include Indigenous flora species which celebrate the site. The Yarning Circle incorporates sculptural artwork, painted and carved totems and traditional patterns on precast concrete seats, basalt boulders and concrete paving. The final spot of location of this Yarning Circle has been finalised.
- TS noted that art briefs will be sent to the two registered Aboriginal parties and then following their submissions, planning and budgets will be considered before construction starts. TS noted that the area near to Moonee Ponds Creek has a strict deadline of the end of this year.

Interpretive Artwork Questions

- **Q:** (GM) When will the Yarning Circle be installed? Concern is getting this installed too soon, before people are moving through on the new path, to try and avoid graffiti in the area, as it is occurring a lot down there now while the path is closed.
- **A:** (TS) Tight time frames will be implemented; artists are moving through the processes.
- **Q:** (IB) Where does Indigenous planting fit into the package?
- **A:** (TS) Tract have done the landscaping works, and Indigenous planting will take place around the Yarning Circle.
- **Q:** (NH) Where is the engagement at with the artists on the bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek?
- **A:** (TS) There is a 65m panel which will allow the artists to tell their stories, they are in full control of what goes on there. There is great opportunity with digitised artwork in the area, telling stories over the creek. Engagement started back in 2017 with Wurundjeri representatives, using their own interpretation on their own land. Last meeting was in March last year, where Tract took the owners through the opportunities that are on this section of the bridge.
- NH asked if there could be more information provided to Council about the art brief. NH also noted that City of Melbourne would be happy to help get the brief out to a wider group if that is supported.
- MB asked if Indigenous flora is also going into the design. Advised that flora would be, but as a separate package of works that would align with the construction package.

Member questions and comments

Comments

- (DR) Asked when the Federation Trail section between Millers Road and Fogarty Avenue will re-open.
- (FS) Request to have further detailed information regarding the reopening of shared user paths, including dates of opening and who is responsible. He noted that this has been ongoing for two years and is frustrating.
- (IB) Council have concerns on an early commitment by CPBJH that power lines in South Kingsville are no longer going to be put underground behind the residential area of Precinct 15.
- (SDR) JV are discussing this and talks are in progress. Will follow up with the JV as to where this is at.

- (NH) Want to thank project parties for getting that new bike path detour in at the Dynon Road Citylink intersection, a good outcome safety wise for cyclists.
- (GB) Agree with this, a very good outcome for cyclists. Want to also acknowledge the design of the new stretch of Moonee Ponds Creek trail also.
- (KR) The Princes Freeway lanes heading outbound on the West Gate Freeway are running well.
- (IB) Council is not keen on wooden totems being installed for the yarning circle at Kororoit Creek, given difficulties in maintaining them.
- (CF) Request for a timeline on the Harris Street works.

Questions

- **Q:** (KR) What time are the school holiday bike events?
- **A:** (CG) Between 11am-2pm on the 3rd and 6th of July.

- **Q:** (SW) Want to know what landscaping is being done at the Hyde Street reserve and Stony Creek Reserve?
- **A:** (LE) Landscaping updates were provided at a past meeting, we can arrange for an update on that area offline.

- **Q:** (NH) Timing of landscaping reinstatement and offset tree package in the east zone for this planting season?
- **A:** (CG) Taken on notice, will provide information at a future CLG meeting.

- **Q:** (BB) A Millers Road business has stated that the project has severely impacted their business can contact be made?
- **A:** (MM) Small business mentoring service was available with this business and was well received at the time by them. Their concerns have also been passed on to Transurban. The JV has had recent contact with the business.

- **Q:** (IE) Given it is planting season, are plants going to be planted soon and where?
- **A:** (TS) Talks are ongoing with Hobsons Bay City Council regarding planting off the offset tree planting. We expect a program to be finalised within the short time frame.

- **Q:** (IE) Did traditional owners have input on the naming of the pedestrian bridges? And have the names been decided?
- **A:** (LE) Yes, they have been consulted, we will provide an update on the pedestrian bridge naming and process at the next meeting

Meeting close (7:30PM)

- (KJ) Closed the meeting by thanking members in person and online.
- Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place on Friday July 26, 2024, this will be the CLG bus tour.