

# Minutes

**Subject:** November Community Liaison Group Meeting

**Date:** Thursday 28 November 2024 **Time:** 5:30pm-7:30pm

**Location:** WGTP Information Centre

**Apologies:** Steve Wilson, Glen Yates, Adam Bright, Jordana Thornton, Fran Araneda, Charlie Fairbairn, Dylan Kunst, Jala Shekho, Mel Ryan.

**Guests:** Andrew Newman (AN) & Jess Murdoch (JM) (Department of Transport & Planning).

**Chair:** (KJ) Kim Jordan

## Attendees

Community Members	Group/Association Members
(AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville	(GB) Garry Brennan, Bicycle Network
(SS) Senthill Sundaram, Point Cook	(GM) Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	<b>VIDA MRPV Representatives</b>
(CF) Con Frescos, Yarraville	(SDR) Shane D'Rozario, Chief Operating Officer
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	(DM) Douglas Morris, Manager Community Relations
(FS) Ferdinand Saliba, Deer Park	(LE) Liz Evans, Deputy Director Engagement
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(ES) Ebru Saglam, Deputy Director Technical
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	(JT) Jessica Kurkowski, Stakeholder Relations Coordinator
(PG) Peter Gerrand, North and West Melbourne	(KP) Kim Payne, Director Communications & Engagement
<b>Council Members</b>	<b>Transurban Representatives</b>
(EM) Eloise McGurn, City of Melbourne	(SF) Scott Frazer, Senior Environment Manager
(MB) Melissa Best, Maribyrnong City Council	(AT) Ashleigh Tomas, Communications and Engagement Manager
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	<b>CBPJH Joint Venture Representatives</b>
(NH) Neil Hutchinson, City of Melbourne	(MM) Melissa Merrett, Community & Stakeholder Relations Manager
	(CG) Mario Urban, Stakeholder & Community Engagement Lead – East
	(TS) Tim Spawton, Environmental Sustainability Manager

## Agenda Items

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.30 pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair (Kim Jordan)
5.40 pm	2	WGTP MRPV update	WGTP MRPV (Kim Payne, Liz Evans & Douglas Morris)
5.50 pm	4	Preparing for road opening	DTP (Andrew Newman & Jess Murdoch) WGTP MRPV (Douglas Morris)
6.00 pm	5	Tunnels update	CPBJH (Melissa Merrett & Dylan Kunst)
6.10 pm	6	West update	CPBJH (Melissa Merrett & Dylan Kunst)
6.20 pm	7	East update	CPBJH (Mario Urban & Dylan Kunst)
6.30 pm	8	BREAK	All
6.55 pm	9	Graffiti Update	CPBJH
7.00 pm	10	Member questions	CLG members
7.30 pm	11	Thank you and close	Chair (Kim Jordan)

### Introduction

- KJ provided an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed attendees, and mentioned apologies for the night.
- KJ introduced special guests from the Department of Transport & Planning, Andrew Newman and Jess Murdoch. KJ welcomed Scott Frazer from Transurban and Jessica Kurkowski from MRPV.
- DM outlined Pradeep Tiwari, representative for Footscray and President of West Footscray Traders Association has been recently elected as Councillor and Mayor of Maribyrnong City Council and will therefore no longer represent Footscray on the WGTP Community Liaison Group. DM thanked Pradeep for his time with the group, for connecting the Project to the Diwali Festival of Lights event and wished him well.

### Actions update

- Nil.

### WGTP MRPV update – Douglas Morris

#### **Grants & Partnerships**

- The West Gate Neighbourhood Fund has now allocated \$10 million to support more than 260 community projects in the inner west.
- New electronic scoreboards are popping up across inner west as part of active grants round including Footscray Hockey Club.
- Most recently, an event was held to celebrate the recent upgrades of Millenium House, an important multicultural services organisation in the inner west.

#### **Kororoit Creek Celebration Event**

- Great day, thank you to all CLG members who attended. Well over 200 people came along.
- Thanks to members Geoff Mitchelmore on supporting the guided walk and Ferdi Saliba for providing the Project with some excellent go-pro footage of the newly opened section of path.

#### **Outreach**

- **Diwali Festival, Footscray (23 October):** Over 100 conversations throughout the day. Big interest in Virtual Reality goggles, showcasing “riding along the Veloway”.
- **District Docklands (22 and 24 November):** Approximately 50 conversations across both days. Community interest in veloway progress and early opening of walking and cycling paths

### Preparing for road opening – Kim Payne & Andrew Newman (Department of Transport)

#### **Introduction (KP)**

- This topic will become more of a theme for CLG meetings as the project moves towards completion.
- A lot of work is happening behind the scenes to ensure we’re ready for day one opening.

- The Federation Trail between Millers Road & Kororoit Creek Trail will reopen Friday 29 November ahead of time with an event taking place with Local MP and Bert and Ferdi CLG members.

#### No truck zones (AN)

- \$10 million has been invested to deliver the implementation and enforcement of the 6 'no truck zone' roads with legislation passed recently in Parliament.
- No truck zones to be implemented as a new strategy for first time as part of WGTP on six local roads:
  - Francis Street – Between Roberts Street and Hyde Street.
  - Somerville Road – Between Geelong Road and Whitehall Street.
  - Buckley Street – From Geelong Road to Whitehall Street.
  - Moore Street – From Ballarat Road to Hopkins Street.
  - Blackshaws Road – From Melbourne Road to Grieve Parade.
  - Hudsons Road – Between Melbourne Road and Booker Street.
- DTP has been working for a couple of years now and will be ongoing to implement the 'no truck zones' once the WGT project opens next year.
- Heavy vehicle monitoring camera trials began in 2022 at 3 locations being:
  - Somerville Road and Williamstown Road
  - Moore Street and Hopkins Street, and
  - Melbourne Road and Hudson Road.
- DTP has been working directly with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulation (NHVR). The camera currently on Somerville Road is the 3<sup>rd</sup> iteration of cameras used and will likely be the camera used going forward to enforce the 6 'no truck zone' roads.
- The camera can read licence plate numbers and the number of axels on the truck to determine its size. It's the first time cameras will be used to identify truck sizes in Australia.
- The onus will be on drivers to ensure they do not use these roads unless exempt with enforcement to be in place from day 1 of opening.
- Exemptions will only apply to trucks making deliveries on a 'no truck zone' road or deliveries to local roads that connect directly to one of the 6 roads and there is no other route available to get there.
- The focus of the next 12 months is to engage heavily with business, industry and residents so they are clear on how these roads will operate.
- The next steps for DTP will be to install the new cameras and appropriate signage, prepare communication materials informing stakeholders of the changes and working closely with NHVR to ensure all parties are ready for day 1 opening.

#### Member questions regarding 'no truck zones':

- **Q:** (KR) How much consultation has gone on with councils? Seems to be a fair way down track.
- **A:** (AN) A reference group that includes Councils, NHVR, and the West Gate Tunnel Project has been in place for about 12 months. DTP has also met with MTAG many times. Over the next 12 months, DTP will continue to work with stakeholders. DTP is also considering truck types and what constitutes a truck regarding exemptions as any vehicle carrying more than 4.5 tonnes is technically a truck.
- **Q:** (CFR) Will Google Maps be advised of the no truck zones?
- **A:** (AN) Generally truck access arrangements are not on Google Maps.
- **Q:** (CFR) Who will receive the fine and will they include demerit points?
- **A:** (AN) The fine will go to the registered owner, same as a car. Regarding demerit points, this is still to be confirmed. *(Post meeting advice from DTP is that demerit points will not apply).*
- **Q:** (CFR) Will heavy trucks use Hyde Street ramps? Community is concerned trucks will do rat-runs via Millers Road and the proposed no truck zone streets.
- **A:** (AN) Yes trucks will use the Hyde Street ramps where they are not otherwise permitted to go through the tunnels or if they are going to a local destination. For freight there is one toll point for trucks between Millers and Williamstown Road. Only exemption to use a no truck zone street is if you are delivering something on that restricted street or it is the only way to get to where they are ongoing.
- **Q:** (IE) West Gate Freeway is often at a stand-still with trucks queuing to get onto the current ramps, will this cause issues and lead them to use banned routes?
- **A:** (AN) There has been improvements made to the ramps at Millers Road to help move more trucks onto the Freeway and into the tunnel. The NHVR will manage the enforcement along the 'no truck zone' routes.
- **Q:** (GM) How will you manage traffic at Millers and Williamstown Road? It is already extremely challenging and will only get worse once the project opens.

- **A:** (AN) The project modelling is clear that there will be more trucks on those roads Millers Road moreso than Williamstown Road, and DTP will keep a close eye on it post project.
- **Q:** (GM) There's also a fire brigade on Millers Road; how will they get out if there is an emergency if the Millers Road is completely gridlocked?
- **Q:** (AB) Is there a company contracted to monitor all this?
- **A:** (AN) Contractor is Sensor Dynamics. DTP owns the system and is legally responsible.
- **Q:** (AB) Will this information gathered through cameras be used anywhere else?
- **A:** (AN) No, only for monitoring trucks.
- **Q:** (BB) Millers Road is currently a real issue and will only get worse. As it is, cars cannot get out of side streets and the top end of Millers can be a total standstill. Residents living along Millers Road and surrounding local roads will be exposed to more truck fumes. Something needs to be done.
- **A:** (KP) The Project has acknowledged that Millers Road will carry more traffic as it is a direct connection to the West Gate Freeway. We've provided noise mitigation measures for properties fronting Millers Road and there is an air quality station on Primula Avenue that's been in place for a few years and will allow us to see any changes after opening.
- **Q:** (KJ) Where will the money from the fines for truck non-compliance go?
- **A:** (AN) Fines will go into the 'Better Freight Outcomes Fund' that was established as part of the legislation at the same time that 'no truck zones' was.
- **Q:** (DR) What is the definition of a truck?
- **A:** (AN) A vehicle weighing over 4.5 tonnes.
- **Q:** (IE) Will the north-south corridors become even more congested with the new developments, trucks avoiding tolls and more people using the 'no truck zone' roads to access the Freeway?
- **A:** (AN) Trucks will be required to use Millers and Williamstown Road and the cameras will be in place along the 'no truck zone' roads to manage enforcement.
- **A:** (DM) Traffic modelling completed during the EES phase considered all the new developments as well as trucks performing movements to avoid tolling. The traffic modelling report can be found [here](#).
- **Q:** (IB) What mitigation measures will be implemented to stop rat-running and toll avoidance?
- **A:** (SDR) The actions taken will depend on what problems are. The traffic monitoring will be the key evidence in determining any potential mitigations.
- **Q:** (IB) Is there anything planned to help the flow of traffic at the intersection of Geelong Road and Millers Road?
- **A:** (SDR) Will take on notice.

### **Community engagement (DM)**

- We'll be ramping up our engagement efforts in 2025 to ensure we reach as many people as possible out on the ground to help educate people about how to use the new infrastructure.
- We'll be targeting major events and festivals, shopping centres both regionally and along the Project corridor as well as culturally and linguistically diverse communities and events.
- Once the Project is open, there will be around 90 different journeys possible and it's important that we help people understand their options, using the new or existing roads.
- We're looking at new tools such as virtual reality and driving simulator experiences to support the education.

### **Construction Update – Melissa Merrett & Mario Urban**

#### **Tunnel zone – Melissa Merrett**

##### **Community engagement update**

- Lots of business engagement has taken place regarding northern portal works. Emailed and door knocked locals and businesses around drainage works happening in Northern Portal.
- Spoke to Youell Street Footscray businesses this week to discuss upcoming works.

##### **Tunnel zone construction update**

- **Harris Street:** The shared path and landscaping along Harris Street Footscray have been completed. Line marking and elevated section of path still in progress. Temporary fencing has been removed.

- **Southern outbound portal:** The diagrid (frame) structure is being installed, which is the architectural design wrapping around the ventilation structure and the architectural panel installation is also underway and to be completed by April next year.
- **Northern portal:** Railing work is ongoing on the shared path bridge over Whitehall Street that was installed in October. Northern Portal wetlands construction is underway in this area also.

### West zone – Melissa Merrett

#### Community engagement update

- There has been check-ins with businesses along Williamstown Road during the recent ramp closure and works on installing the new pedestrian and cycling bridge in this area.
- Members of the community have enquired about Federation Trail resurfacing works. The project has been advising the community not to enter the construction zone.

#### West zone construction update

- **Federation Trail resurfacing works:** The path between Millers Road Brooklyn and Kororoit Creek Altona North is reopening tomorrow Friday 29 November, ahead of schedule.
- **Shared user path bridge installed over Williamstown Road inbound exit ramp:** The project is installing the final two beams which connect into the Hyde Street ramps on Thursday 28 November and then will install cladding on those beams. The Williamstown Road inbound exit ramp has reopened.
- **Summer works:** From January to February 2025 there will be multiple outbound lane and ramp closures along the West Gate Freeway between Williamstown Road and Millers Road for resurfacing works. From February to March 2025 there will be multiple citybound lane and ramp closures along the West Gate Freeway between Millers Road and Williamstown Road for resurfacing works. A detailed notification will be sent out to residents and local businesses advising of these closures.

### East zone – Mario Urban

#### Community engagement update

- There has been interest from the community in shared use paths opening and Maribyrnong River access for boat users.
- The project has had check-ins with Footscray Road businesses during asphaltting works on the eastbound carriageway.
- Queensberry Cup was a billy cart race in West Melbourne that attracted thousands of people that the project attended. Attendees were interested in shared path openings.

#### East zone construction update

- **Maribyrnong River Bridges:** Approximately 20-30 coloured panels have been installed along the Maribyrnong River Bridges with these works still on going.
- **Veloway:** The final modules are being installed on the 2.5km cycling veloway between Footscray and Docklands.
- **Elevated Road:** The new feature lighting has been installed near Citylink. Asphaltting works will continue into the new year. Upcoming disruptions taking place along Footscray Road including lane and full road closures for asphaltting, drainage and resurfacing works. These works are set to continue in December and into 2025. A notification was sent out Thursday 28 November.
- **Shared path over Moonee Ponds Creek at Footscray Road:** Opened to the public on 14 November.

#### Break (6:40PM)

### Graffiti update – Melissa Merrett

- Refer to the November presentation for exact graffiti removal locations.

### Member Questions

- **Q:** (GM) Mentioned again the rabbit problem at Kororoit Creek which was raised in October CLG meeting. GM also asked regarding plants that have died, when will they be replaced?
- **A:** (TS) Noted that CPBJH went out with the Independent Reviewer and Environmental Auditor (IREA) to Kororoit Creek and stated several protection measures placed around plants in west zone. There is no obligation for rabbit control under the contract. Planted trees and plants need to meet a determined survivability rate and replanting should occur in line with the required VicRoads maintenance regime.
- (SDR) If CPBJH meets this maintenance regime, then they should get right outcome. MRPV to monitor that they do that.
- **Q:** (GM) Why can't Melbourne Water access Kororoit Creek yet?
- **A:** CPBJH to follow up to investigate access requirements of Melbourne Water.
- **Q:** (AB) Asked how long the tolls will be ongoing for?
- **A:** (AT) The Concession deed is until 2045.
- **Q:** (CFR) Mentioned he was under the impression filters were being installed in the tunnel ventilation system. Why has there been a change to no filters?
- **A:** (KP) The West Gate Tunnel Project has been designed to enable the retrofitting of filters however; filters were not part of the EPA works approval. Air quality monitors ensure air quality is being tracked and within the anticipated standards that the modelling indicated.
- **Q:** (CFR) Can drawings be shared of planned open space, particularly around the northern portal?
- **A:** (DM) Can share some renders.
- **Q:** (DR) Residents of Marigold Avenue can't get out of driveways after 2.30pm, due to build up of drivers on their street who are trying to bypass the Blackshaws Road and Millers Road intersection. Could a clearway be put in or the street be made one way? BB & GM also noted the same point.
- **A:** (KP) To be taken on notice. Will need to investigate as it is outside our project works.
- **Q:** (KR) Mentioned there are potholes that require filling inbound after turning off to Princes Highway exit, (M80 to West Gate Freeway exit ramp).
- **A:** (MM) Stated there is asphaltting coming up in that section.
- **Q:** (KR) Stated after work hours there are still speed signs with 40km with no works happening which is causing drivers to go all different speeds.
- **A:** (SDR) There are often several factors influencing set speed limits such as clearances or lane widths but understand that this can be frustrating for road users.
- **Q:** (FS) When will that bi-directional path will be done adjacent to Yarraville Gardens on Hyde Street?
- **A:** (SDR) Answered that there is no set date in place, they are currently working on traffic signal changes now and need to consider whole bike lane as they then get to Harris Street, it will all link up eventually as the project nears completion.
- **Q:** (FS) Asked when will the shared use path over Footscray Road (cable stay bridge) open?
- **A:** (SDR) There is no date set yet. The project is currently considering some matters before opening can occur, including the interface with the E-Gate entrance, the ramps on and off the bridge and connections to the broader cycling network.
- **Q:** (IB) Can tolling and the freeway management system be spoken to at a 2025 meeting?
- **A:** (AT) Yes this will happen.
- **Q:** (IE) West Gate Freeway signage from the M80 is ambiguous and confusing. Is signage final?
- **A:** (SDR) Confirmed a signage review is underway.
- **Q:** (IE) Stated that the community is concerned that the parkland expected to be opened near southern side of West Gate Tunnel portal, will not be opened as parkland anymore.
- **A:** (MM) Confirmed it will still be park land near New Street, south of the freeway.
- (IB) There will be some permanent mechanical equipment in that area but open space around it.

**FA sent through questions prior to meeting noting she would be an apology:**

- **Q:** (FA) A 3-meter high Corten double barrier has gone up on the bicycle bridge over the Moonee Ponds Creek, adjacent to the historic Dynon Road bridge. It blocks any views downstream of the Moonee Ponds Creek and forms an enclosed/walled effect on the road bridge itself. Can you please confirm what is being built on the presently-under-construction bicycle bridge adjacent to the southern side of Footscray Road Bridge? We do not want a similar structure blocking views of the open creek downstream as well as the vegetation on the eastern bank that Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FoMPC) has worked so hard to retain and infill revegetate.

- **A:** (SDR) For the shared use path over Moonee Ponds Creek there is a viewing platform for looking north. The State team (MRPV) will follow up what the plan is for southern side and why that height has been selected.
- **Q:** (PG) NWMA shares Kensington Association's disappointment that the new shared (bike/pedestrian) bridge across the Moonee Ponds Creek has sight barriers that block the view of the beautifully restored creek from walkers or cyclists using the bridge. Can the design be improved?
- **A:**(SDR) The barriers on the new bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek are the same height either side. Will need to follow up on the height requirements. Happy to pull the information together and share information with Peter and Fran before the next CLG meeting.
- **Q:** (FA) Can you also confirm what is being considered for the shared path across Bridge 75? There's concern that a similar structure to the one over the Dynon Road bridge will destroy the environmental and visual amenity of the Creek.
- **A:** CPBJH to follow up.
- **Q:** (FA) Would it be possible to get a copy of the planting plan for the areas surrounding Moonee Ponds Creek and time frames to complete. Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek was involved in the initial planning phase but there haven't been any updates since then.
- **A:** CPBJH to follow up.
- **Q:** (FA) Can you confirm that indigenous species will be planted (to encourage biodiversity/contributing to a biolink along the Creek).
- **A:** (TS) Noted CPBJH has been going through landscaping plan recently in east zone. The same indigenous plants outlined in the original plan will be planted and will take place next year.

### **Member Comments**

- (MB) Maribyrnong City Council (MCC) is concerned with rabbits and tree planting in the Maribyrnong area. MB stated they need to watch carefully and to note planting timeline.
- (MB) Worker parking issue is a significant issue around the northern portal with project workers parking in business parking areas. The project workers have a responsibility to not park on local streets. MCC will be escalating and pushing as much as they can to address this issue.
- (BB) The Millers Road and Williamstown Road exit ramps inbound were closed at the same time recently and had to go over the West Gate Bridge and turn around as the signage and diversions were terrible.
- (FS) Noted the opening of Old Geelong Road bridge at Kororoit Creek is great to see.
- (FS) Mentioned he has ridden along the Millers Road to Fogarty Road new shared use path a few times now and it's great that it's opened.
- (CFR) Traffic management signage across the Project has been very unclear and confusing
- (DR) Noted the speed limit along Blackshaws Road has been reduced to 40km/h.

### **Meeting close (7:50PM)**

- (KJ) Closed the meeting and thanked members.
- Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place Thursday 6 February 2025.