

# Minutes

**Subject:** March Community Liaison Group Meeting

**Date:** Thursday 20 March 2025 **Time:** 5:30pm-7:30pm

**Location:** WGTP Information Centre

**Apologies:** Steve Wilson, Con Frescos, Neil Hutchison, Adam Bright, Senthill Sundaram, Glen Yates, Melissa Merrett, Christian Green

**Guests:** (NV) Nicole Vaughn – Spatial Media, (CB) Cristian Biotto – Aurecon

**Chair:** (KJ) Kim Jordan

## Attendees

Community Members	Major Road Project Victoria, Victorian Infrastructure Delivery
(AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville	(SDR) Shane D’Rozario, Director Operations
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	(LE) Liz Evans, Deputy Director Engagement
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	(DM) Douglas Morris, Manager Community Relations
(FS) Ferdinand Saliba, Deer Park	(JT) Jordana Thornton, Engagement Coordinator
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(ES) Emily Sun, Graduate Communications & Engagement
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	(AS) Ashleigh Simpson Engagement Coordinator
(FA) Fran Araneda, Kensington	<b>Transurban Representatives</b>
<b>Council Members</b>	(SF) Scott Frazer, Senior Environment Manager
(EM) Eloise McGurn, City of Melbourne	(JS) Jala Shekho, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager
(MB) Melissa Best, Maribyrnong City Council	<b>Joint Venture (JV) Representatives</b>
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	(CF) Charlie Fairbairn, Civil & Surface Works Director
<b>Group/Association Members</b>	(TS) Tim Spawton, Environmental Sustainability Manager
(GB) Garry Brennan, Bike Network	(JW) Jeremy Wee, ME&I Project Manager
(GM) Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit	(SC) Struan Collins, Project Director

## Agenda Items

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.30 pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair (Kim Jordan)
5.40 pm	2	Community engagement update	CPBJH JV
5.50 pm	3	Construction update	CPBJH JV
6.10 pm	4	WGTP MRPV update	WGTP MRPV
6.30 pm	5	WGTP's user education tools	Transurban/Spatial Media
6.40 pm	6	Environmental update	All
6.50 pm	7	BREAK	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.
- KJ welcomed new attendees and special guests. Emily Sun from WGTP MRPV, Nicole Vaughn from Spatial Media, Cristian Biotto from Aurecon, Ashleigh Simpson returning from maternity leave.
- KJ noted a change to the structure of the meeting, construction update will cover the entire project, rather than individual zones, similar with the community engagement update which is now a standalone agenda item. Community engagement updates will address matters raised by the community/CLG members and project related community engagement matters from the project parties.

### Actions update

- Nil.

### Community Engagement update – Charlie Fairbairn

- **Traffic along Benbow Street** –VMS signage was implemented to indicate no right turn into Benbow Street until the permanent no right turn was installed.
- **West Gate Freeway detour options** – Reminder emails were sent to road users regarding detours for West Gate Freeway closures and additional signage was implemented.
- **Dust along Footscray Road path** - Regular sweeping and cleaning is being implemented by maintenance crews in line with maintenance requirements.
- **Maintenance along Donald McLean fence line** - Site maintenance crews cleaned up areas between the sporting facilities and Hyde Street ramps.
- **Worker parking** –40% of the workforce at the Youell Street compound was relocated to another site area in the west of the project. Education to workers on appropriate parking spots continues.
- **Pearl River Road** – Has re-opened to southbound traffic. Engagement completed in the Docklands precinct and with Bicycle Network for the reopening.
- **Harris Street** – Businesses and sporting organisations were advised on the postponement of works in this area. Stakeholders will be advised when dates for works are confirmed.
- **Honorary naming program** - Engagement with the community on tunnel naming and wider naming program is ongoing. JS thanked the CLG members who attended the workshop prior to the meeting.

### Construction Update – Charlie Fairbairn

- **Summer works campaign** – Asphaltting works continue on the West Gate Freeway (WGF) between Millers Road and Williamstown Road. Crews have been constructing barriers, completing line marking and laying the final layer of asphalt which will be complete next week.
- **Tunnels** – Information Technology System (ITS) network, ventilation system, lighting and safety systems currently being installed. Architectural panels and all barriers are installed. Asphaltting program inside the tunnels to commence in the next few weeks.
- **Veloway** - The main bridge structure of the veloway is complete, 99% of the cladding is complete with minimal panels left to be installed. CCTV, lighting and the steel mesh protection system above the veloway are all currently being installed. The final surface layer to be completed in the next month.

- **Footscray Road** – Asphaltting to continue along the westbound service road between Dock Link Road and Appleton Dock Road.
- **Wurundjeri Way** – The majority of works are completed with lighting infrastructure now commissioned.
- **Bridge cladding** – Highlighted a photo of the eel skin cladding on the main tollway that leads into the tunnel over Maribyrnong River. Gantry infrastructure, VMS and static signage has been installed. Diagrid structure starting to wrap around the ventilation structure “building”.

### **Graffiti update**

Various areas of graffiti removal were undertaken (refer slide in presentation).

### **Member questions –**

**Q: (IE)** Is the current asphalt campaign on the West Gate Freeway the last of the major works there?

**A: (CF)** Confirmed that at the end of this month the newly asphalted lanes will re-open city bound, including the ramps to Millers and Williamstown Roads.

**(SDR)** Advised there are still some upcoming works to complete the outbound ventilation structure and then we are just about there.

**Q: (IE)** Do you think the current West Gate Freeway works caused more disruption than you anticipated?

**A: (CF)** The residential roads received a bigger disruption than anticipated.

**(SDR)** Acknowledged the current works have been a big impact to residents and predicting the number of cars using local streets as detours was a challenge. Project parties worked with local councils to help put in some measures at short notice to help some congestion points on local roads.

**Q: (AB)** What is the timeline for when the Williamstown Road inbound exit ramp will reopen?

**A: (CF)** The ramp will re-open at the end of the month when the asphaltting works are done but noting that some upcoming closures may be required to build the ventilation structure.

**Q: (IE)** Is the temporary crossing on Blackshaws Road going to become permanent?

**A: (LE)** The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) installed the temporary crossing, with our communications and engagement support, to assist with pedestrians crossing during the detour period. This is expected to be removed once the West Gate Tunnel freeway asphalt works are finished. Longer term, DTP are best placed to give advice.

### **WGTP MRPV update – Liz Evans & Douglas Morris**

**(LE)**

#### **• Latest news:**

- Name your tunnels competition is underway, LE encouraged members to reach out to people in their communities to submit entries. So far close to 3000 entries have been received.
- The project had an opportunity with Supercars ahead of Formula 1 to get their team onsite, which was great promo for the project gearing up to completion.
- The project attended the Container Transport Alliance Association (CTAA) seminar to speak about changes in the road network for the freight industry and no truck zones in the inner west. LE noted that education is the projects focus for the rest of the year, to ensure the freight industry are aware of the changes. The project is attending a conference next week with Victorian Transport Authority (VTA).

#### **• Formula 1:**

- The project attended the Formula 1 Grand Prix event and launched the new West Gate Tunnel driver simulator - an immersive experience allowing users to drive through the West Gate Tunnel which had plenty of interest. The team spoke with over 1000 people across the 4 days answering project related enquiries and speaking to new journey options.

#### **• Phases of completions:**

- Preparation work has been done to make sure the project covers all the bases on the different community streams to engage with and the most effective way to communicate the information. The project is touching base with motorists, cycling communities, active transport groups, pedestrians, freight community, schools, businesses and many more.
- We are currently in the education phase; the project team will be out in the community with nearly 100 days of engagement occurring through to project opening. The projects aim is to engage with over 200,000 people prior to project opening.

#### **• More ways to learn about the West Gate Tunnel:**

- There are a range of user guides and videos in development for general motor vehicles and the freight industry which will be available in person and online. There will be an online portal for

community members to plan their journeys via car, bicycle or truck. The driver simulator and 3D model will be available at the Information Centre

- LE noted the project would like to hear more from the CLG members and include them in educating the community, LE suggested setting up a workshop for members to share ideas.

(DM)

- **Community:**

- In the month of February, the project team were engaging with the CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) community at the Pako Festival, Antipodes Festival, Wyndham Multicultural Festival, Vietnamese Festival. The project spoke with thousands of community members and shared translated factsheets/updates to support these communities.
- Upcoming outreach: Yarraville Festival, Avalon Airshow, VTA conference, Australian Islamic Centre pop up, Shopping centre pop ups from May – September at both regional and metro locations.

- **Avalon Airshow:**

- The project will be at the Avalon Airshow from Tuesday 25 March – Sunday 30 March. The WGTP activation will be in hall 4 with the driver simulator on show.

- **Web & Digital:**

- A new project web page has been set up with education-based content that highlights journey options for drivers, cyclists and truck drivers.
- [Home - Victoria's Big Build](#)

- **Active Transport:**

- Preparation to engage with key active transport stakeholders is underway with engagement to take place in the coming months on opportunities to educate the walking and cycling community. The project is looking at things like self-guided tours, way finding decals and education-based signage to be introduced.

### **WGTP's User Education Tools – Jala Shekho & Nicole Vaughn**

(JS)

- JS introduced Spatial Media; noted that over the past year Transurban and the State government teams have worked closely to develop a range of driver education tools; outlined these resources aim to help users navigate the West Gate Tunnel safely and confidently before it opens later this year.

(NV)

- **Driver simulator tool:**

- NV spoke to the goal of helping drivers navigate the West Gate Tunnel safely.
- The WGTP 3D model touch screen has been moved into a simulator gaming platform.
- Drivers can have a lifelike experience sitting in the car seat, using the steering wheel and foot pedals to get the same feeling as driving through the project in its final alignment.
- The tool is a great way to get families and kids on there to learn more about the project.

- **Journey planner tool:**

- There are around 100 different journey's that the West Gate Tunnel Project will provide, and a journey planer tool will allow future drivers to have a real-life experience by accessing these.
- Users can search the address bar or click on the map for start and end points. You can select car, truck or cyclist mode for tailored journey options. The tool displays journey video according to your chosen journey, map visually depicts vehicle/bicycle moving along the journey as the video is playing.

### **Member questions –**

**Q: (FA)** Will users be able to see the cost of the toll on the driver simulator?

**A: (NV)** It tells you if the journey is tolled or not but not the specific cost. There will be a link to the Transurban/Linkt website where Toll pricing is available now.

**A: (JS)** Tolling prices are on the Transurban and Linkt website. Pricing is updated on a quarterly basis, in line with the CPI.

**Q: (FS)** Will tolling start on day one of the project opening or will there be a lead in period?

**A: (JS)** Transurban are developing a strategy behind tolling information and will advise once confirmed.

**Q: (KR)** How are you planning on educating interstate truck drivers on the project?

**A: (LE)** Noted a lot of avenues of engagement are going through to interstate truck drivers. Transurban also have a national connection to share the message. LE stated that messaging has already gone out to the

industry for those who need to apply for permits to give them plenty of notice. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator have online maps and information they share as well.

**KR:** It would be helpful if the Project can provide regular updates about these new educational tools so the CLG members can share them with networks and help in the education process.

**LE:** The Project can share some Q&As with the CLG members and links to all of the new resources.

**DM:** The Project will be providing more regular updates between now and the end of the Project to assist CLG members with answering any community questions they receive.

## **Break (6:50PM)**

### **Environment Update – Liz Evans, Douglas Morris, Jeremy Wee, Scott Frazer**

#### **(LE & DM)**

- **Air quality:**
  - LE acknowledged there have been questions in the community around air quality.
  - EPA are holding a community session in Brooklyn on 2 April and have produced a factsheet.
  - DM highlighted 2 graphs from the Environment Effects Statement (EES) highlighting the contributing factors to air quality in the inner west. The background conditions (meteorological, social, local industry, etc) are the main cause of PM10 and PM2.5 (particulate matter) as well as the existing conditions of the surface roads in the West.
  - The ventilation stacks have a very minute impact compared to the existing background and surface road conditions.

#### **(JW & SF)**

- **Tunnel Ventilation:**
  - The ventilation structures can be found at the northern portal and southern outbound portal and stand at nearly 50m in height to ensure the air from the tunnels is dispersed at such a height so as not to adversely impact air quality in the local area.
  - The design of the tunnel means there are zero portal emissions, meaning no exhaust fumes come out at either end of the tunnel where vehicles enter and exit.
  - Fresh air that comes in from the tunnel entrances travels through the tunnels with the speed of the vehicles and the jet fans (if required) and once it gets to the ventilation tower, the fans in the ventilation structure push the air up and out of the outlet and the air is dispersed.
  - There are 72 jet fans in total, 44 jet fans in the outbound tunnel and 28 jet fans in the inbound tunnel. Not all fans are required to be in operation at all times. The tunnel is designed to increase or decrease capacity dependent on the need.
  - There are 33 air quality monitors in total across both structures. This information will be published online. The air quality monitors are linked to the ventilation fans to inform when extra ventilation or less ventilation is required.
  - The system will activate when emissions approach critical levels; this would likely only be in the event of an emergency such as a fire in the tunnel.

## **Member questions –**

**Q: (BB)** What happens if there is an accident in there and traffic stops. Will the fans be strong enough to push the air out?

**A: (JW)** There are sufficient fans to push the air out and up through the ventilation structure.

**Q: (BB)** Have you done modelling around the local areas around where the ventilation structures are?

**A: (KJ)** Yes, the modelling is contained in the Project Environment Effects Statement which is all available online and specific references can be sent to the CLG members.

**Q: (AB)** What height are the air quality monitors set at, as he understood that carbon dioxide sits around 1.5-1.8m.

**A: (JW)** Monitors are 2.8m above surface level in the tunnel.

**Q: (BB)** What happens if there is a power failure in the tunnel?

**A: (DM)** **Excerpt from 2 May 2024 CLG meeting minutes in section titled "Tunnel Zone Questions".**  
*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)** What happens when you reach the threshold for portal emissions in the tunnel?

**A: (SF)** The system is automatic and will act before the level is reached, turning on the fans. SF explained that the system continuously analyses data through an algorithm to manage emissions.

**Q: (FA)** How is the air quality monitoring data reported? Is it on average or at a particular time?

**A: (SF)** The ambient information will be reported against the EPA objectives.

**Q: (GM)** Asked where is this graph about air quality from?

**A: (DM)** The Environmental Effects Statement (EES), which we can share the page reference with members.

**Q: (DR)** Asked if the jet fans keep working if there is an emergency in the tunnel?

**A: (JW)** If there is an emergency, the jet fans will continue to push air through forward and out through the ventilation structure. Smoke ducts are located above and will suck up smoke and push it through the ventilation structure. AID cameras can locate the fires.

**Q: (FS)** Noted at the February meeting there still needs to be a barrier installed at the Cleanaway entrance at the Federation Trail.

**A:** An update was shared with CLG members on Tuesday 18 March. CPBJH are working closely with DTP to have the barrier reinstated as part of the Shared Use Path handover process.

**Q: (GM)** Advised he is meeting with the local MP to discuss the safety of bike riders at the intersection of Geelong Road and Federation Trail. There needs to be something stronger than barriers installed as trucks cause a hazard. Department of Transport and Planning and Bicycle Network are all looking into it.

**Q: (AB)** If the tunnel is ever closed for an emergency, is there a u-turn available for cars to vacate?

**A: (SDR)** There are diversion plans that highlight points upstream at the tunnel, where various gates can shut off traffic to the tunnel. Once you are in the tunnel, drivers would be listening for information on the speakers, and if they need to evacuate, the cross passages are available.

**Q: (IE)** Noted from a community perspective, 8 years ago is a long time ago from when the EES was completed, and a lot has changed since then.

**A: (LE)** While the EES was completed in 2017, all of the traffic modelling and planning was based on the project opening and further projections to the Year 2031.

**Q: (FA)** Requested to see the planting plans around Moonee Ponds Creek and asked if April planting is still occurring. She suggested if it's easier to have a meeting with the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek to provide an update.

**A: (TS)** Confirmed to set up meeting to speak through this.

**LE** noted there was a recent media article about the need to extend the West Gate Tunnel funding, **LE** advised the project is on track to be completed in line with the budget that was agreed after the commercial settlement in 2021.

**Q: (GM)** Mentioned adjacent washed away area near the Federation Trail between Geelong Road bridge and the Blue Stone bridge.

**A:** CPBJH to follow up.

#### **Meeting close (7:40PM)**

- (KJ) Closed the meeting and thanked members.
- Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place Thursday 1 May 2025.