

Meeting Minutes



Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	5/09/2025	Time	10am – 12pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	6 of 2025
Location	Manningham Hotel and Club	Minute taker	Emily Sun

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Chair	Mia McMahon (MM)	Spark
Frank Freschi (FF)	Community Representative	Lauren Watson (LW)	Spark
John van Delft (JVD)	Community Representative	Paul Dall'Oglio (PD)	EBTA
Joe Carbone (JCa)	Community Representative	Sean Larkin (SL)	NEL
Judith Voce (JVo)	Community Representative	Michael Hobbs (MH)	NEL
Nic Moore (NMo)	Community Representative	Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	EBTA
Josh Ribarich (JR)	NEL	Rebecca Stewart (RS)	Spark
Glennys Jones (GJ)	Community Representative	Niamh Kenny (NK)	NEL
Leah McGuinness (LMc)	Whitehorse City Council	Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council
Jacinda Shen (JS)	NEL	Emily Sun (ES)	NEL
Mason Englander (ME)	Spark	Shane Cutland (SC)	Manningham City Council
Milan Dhruve (MD)	Spark	Shayne Garratt (SG)	ETSA

Apologies

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Nic Morton (NM)	NEL	Ros Magee (RM)	Community Representative
Christine Spencer (CS)	ETSA	Otto Sargent (OS)	Community Representative
Alexander Law (AL)	Community Representative	Mahesh Buchade (MB)	Manningham City Council
Rachel Kamath (RK)	Whitehorse City Council		

Previous actions – short term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC25 5-2	RM requested to understand if the steel is going to be 80% recycled steel and where it is being sourced from	MH	05/09/2025	Closed	MH provided a verbal update on the proportion of recycled materials in steel and the sourcing of it.
SC25 5-3	Congestion at the Bulleen Road citybound ramp	JL	05/09/2025	Closed	JL provided a verbal update on the single merge lane on Bulleen Road citybound exit ramp.

Previous actions – long term

No.	Owner	Topic	Status
SC24 6-8	MH	OS requests if a meeting can be scheduled upon the completion of the Doncaster Park and Ride UDLP to include a PTV representative	MH investigating internally
SC25 5-10	MRPV	Burke Road lighting	MRPV provided written response from DTP to RM on 8 April discussing its safety assessment on the current lighting on Burke Road.
SC25 5-4	LM	Site walk/tour of the northern end of the project	Spark to schedule in, will follow up with a date.

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
2025	Initially raised: 14/04/2023 Re-raised: 18/10/2024 02/05/2025 25/07/2025 05/09/2025	Flooding considerations across North East Link	MHi & Spark	MHi and Spark to present more information on flood mitigation in future presentations when more information becomes available.

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Discussion
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Acknowledgment of Country
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Welcome and Introductions Short term actions SC25 5-2: MH said the vast majority of the steel comes from Australian suppliers with over 90% locally made. 70% of recycled materials is used for reinforcement steel in concrete structures. ACTION CLOSED. FF asked if the proportion mentioned is across the whole project. MH said the proportions mentioned is mainly for Eastern Freeways Burke to Tram Road package. The proportion across the whole program will be similar, but other packages will have their own targets. SC25 5-3: JL said Bulleen Road citybound exit ramp currently has a long merge lane on top of the three-lane wide freeway. This arrangement can't change due to the construction of underpasses and noise walls, realignment of the ramp, and foundation works for Bulleen Road bridge widening. The merge lane has been temporarily extended to capture traffic looking to exit the Eastern Freeway without impacting freeway traffic. ACTION CLOSED. FF said the single lane which is almost all the way up to Bulleen is not mitigating the impacts on traffic. JL said there is no additional space for the ramp. JVo noticed that trucks from the site come from nowhere and do not give way, which is dangerous. PD said they are reminding drivers during pre-start meeting and will continue to remind truck drivers to ensure they exit the site safely. Long term actions No updates Future presentations No updates
Shayne Garratt (SG)	Eastern Freeways Tram to Springvale Road UDLP Update <u>Presentation covered major works that will happen in the Tram to Springvale package, relevant project partners, a video visualising the detailed changes to Eastern Freeways in all three packages, exhibition of Tram to Springvale package UDLP and relevant community events.</u> GJ asked if the video shown is publicly available online. SG: The video has been released publicly and the link will be shared post meeting. FF said he is particularly interested in some of the areas that were quickly passed in the video. SG: Additional information is available to the public online, with artist impressions of key construction areas. MH

Owner	Discussion
	added that still images and drawings have been compiled in the UDLP and that these will be available at public exhibition sessions. FF said that it is dangerous when coming from Tram Road getting onto the freeway and just about 50 meters down where the traffic wants to get off at Middleborough Road. SG: There will be a lane dedicated to local trips between Tram Road and Middleborough Road, making the trip safer.
Paul Dall'Ogio (PD) Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Eastern Freeways construction update <u>Presentation covered the explanation of the split of three teams and respective scope of works in Burke to Tram Alliance and updates on Bulleen Interchange, Eastern Freeway, Estelle Bridge, Heyington Avenue Bridge, flyover piers in Bulleen, Bulleen Road and new noise walls.</u> JC asked what BEBO is. PD: BEBO is the concrete arch that takes the creek down the freeway. FF asked if the area shown in the video is where the Koonung Creek cross. PD: Yes. GJ referred to the video and asked if the shared path along the Doncaster Road citybound exit ramp that is diverted by Boroondara Council has been resolved. JL: The trail is no longer open. FF asked if pedestrians and residents can get access to the Heyington Bridge once it is installed over the freeway. PD: Not straightaway as they still need to pour concrete onto the bridge. JL: Both Heyington and Estelle bridges are due to open by the end of the year. FF asked about the diameter of TBM. PD: It is around 1200mm. LMc asked who Rachel is. JL: Rachel is the name of TBM and this name was selected by the children at the Wonderland Childcare Centre. JVo said there is a lot of spaces under where the Bulleen overpass and the new Bulleen Road intersects with the golf course. JVo asked where the space connects to and if there will be public access to it. PD: There will be ramps going in and out of the tunnel on the golf course side, and the area where the compound is will be landscaped. JL: The area underneath the elevated structure is currently used for accessibility and maintenance for crews to enter and exit and will not be open to public. JVo asked why the project is using extra land on the city side of the golf course. PD: They have installed a golf net there and will build retaining walls along the edge. There will be a new road back between the net and the freeway which will be used by golf course employees to access the maintenance shed. JVo asked if the project has acquired any of the freeway golf courses land to build the freeway. PD: Yes - the land was acquired at the start of the project. JVo questioned if they are getting the same land back. PD: This will be decided at a later date.

Owner	Discussion
	FF asked if Heyington Avenue Bridge is built with three cranes. PD Only one crane will be utilised for the lift. FF asked if the project has encouraged the public to see the lift of the new Heyington Avenue bridge. JL: No, due to the time of the night the lift will take place. FF asked if the retaining wall along golf course boundary will be rock faces. PD: It is a combination of concrete and rock face. FF asked if the noise wall will be replaced. PD: Yes. FF asked if the new noise wall is similar to the works on M80 as it looks familiar. PD: The noise wall is a combination of steel and plastic. FF said that intelligent transportation system (ITS) is not very intelligent in his experience. He said that it seems to work better along the slipway. JL: Metering has been implemented on the other freeways but never on the Eastern Freeway. This is a new experience for drivers. ITS can vary speed and close lanes to control traffic during an incident.
Milan Dhruve (MD)	North East Link construction update <u>Presentation covered construction updates on Manningham Road site, Trinity Site, Bulleen cut and cover, milestones achieved and the latest progress of TBM tracker.</u> No questions were asked.
Mia McMahon (MM)	North East Link 2025 traffic changes update <u>Presentation covered a recap of the four major campaigns completed up to July, updates on Bulleen Road alignment, details of drainage campaign in September and detour information.</u> CD would like Spark to notify the Boroondara Council if the detours of the September disruption will be running into their patch and provide the relevant Worksite Traffic Management Plan (WTMP). MM: The traffic team has all the final plans and will share them if this hasn't occurred already. GJ would like the detour information to be shared as early as possible so it can be shared with social media groups. MM: The maps and detours shown on the screen have just been finalised while flyers and fact sheet have been distributed to key schools in the area. GJ asked if the September Bulleen Road southbound lane closures between Manningham Road and Noelle Street will impact the shared path heading northbound along the river. MM: The shared path will remain open. GJ said the shared path she mentioned is very popular.

Owner	Discussion
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Eastern Freeways 2025 traffic changes update <u>Presentation covered Eastern Freeway full weekend closure, detour information, traffic disruptions in November and December and SUP diversions for Estelle Street Bridge, Heyington Avenue Bridge and Valda Wetlands.</u> FF complimented the VMS and TV advertising of Eastern Freeways weekend closure. JVo Commented that she had heard the closure mentioned on radio. JC asked if Google Maps has all the closure and detour information. JL: Yes, and there will be real time traffic VMS out on the weekend. CD thanked EBTA for providing detailed summary of the works and keeping them up to date in the lead up to the closure. FF said the SUP diversions will decrease users. MH recognised there has been a big drop in numbers using the trail but will do a ride through on the detour route before opening it. GJ asked if residents are informed about the detour routes as residents might not be expecting riders on the footpath or local roads. MH: Residents who live on detour routes will receive a work notice about the shared path closures.
Rebecca Stewart (RS)	North East Link community engagement update <u>Presentation covered community interactions over the past two months and upcoming community events.</u> JC asked what Moon festival is. SL: It is a big community event hosted in Box Hill Town Hall celebrating the beginning cycle of the new moon. MH: The project will be there with Suburban Rail Loop. JVD asked if the community events get a decent number of participations. RS: Events typically result in good interactions. A recent Bulleen pop-up resulted in approximately 80 interactions in three hours.
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Eastern Freeways community engagement update <u>Presentation covered community interactions over the past two months, common issues raised by residents and community initiatives.</u> GJ mentioned that Nick's Niggle wrote an article published in the Institute of Transportation Engineers about the shared path conditions. JL: This article has been passed on to the traffic team and confirmed there is no record of Nick's Niggle approaching the project. JVo asked if car wash voucher will really be provided when requested. JL: This is on a case-by-case basis in terms of how impacted individuals are. JVo asked if external cleaning is referring to the cleaning of the houses. JL: Yes.

Owner	Discussion
	FF asked when do dust levels around the project peak. JL: This typically happens in summer.
Lauren Watson (LW)	North East Link environment update <u>Presentation covered August environmental monitoring summary, including surface water, ground water, noise vibration and air quality, and updates on Banyule Creek and SEM D-Wall hammering noise complaints.</u> FF asked if the monitoring, especially of vibration and air quality, is ongoing and if there had been any exceedance. LW: Monitoring is ongoing and there was no exceedance in August. Monitoring triggers are also set up so that alarms will go off if it is close to exceedance so that controls can be put in place. FF asked how long it will take for EPA to review the information about Banyule Creek. LW: The EPA has advised that it would take some time.
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Eastern Freeway upgrades environmental update <u>Presentation covered August monitoring summary, including surface water, noise, vibration and air quality.</u> FF asked if the monitoring data is reported up. JL: Yes, and triggers are also set up so the alarms will go off if it is close to exceedance so controls can be put in place. JVD asked if the controls are in addition to Spark's. JL: Yes. FF raised that monitoring data including flood mitigation reports, should be available to the public and CLG members. JC agreed that this information should be made available to the public. MH and JL: Monitoring levels are reported on at every CLG and to the public in the EPR report. They also recognised that once information is available, as outlined in the agenda there will be a future presentation on '<i>Flooding considerations across the North East Link</i>'. GJ said it will be nice to know what they are dealing with regarding the flooding, so they know what to push for in the UDLP designs. She also pointed out that some of the shared paths can be heavily flooded, so it would be nice to have an outcome with an active transport path that can be used throughout the year. MH: There are a lot of works that go beyond UDLP to construction, UDLP is a planning guide and scheme, and there are more assessments closer to construction. GJ highlighted that she believed access to information is hard to obtain. SG encouraged everyone to go to the information sessions as some of those experts will be present. GJ asked where they can find out about the information sessions. SG suggested that interested parties search for community events big build online. FF said he want things to be more transparent in terms of environmental reporting.

Owner	Discussion
Mia McMahon (MM)	Yarra Link Green Bridge presentation <u>Presentation covered construction progress of Yarra Link Green Bridge and ventilation structure, including the focus of construction works in the next 12 months, timing of ventilation structure construction and related visual documents.</u> JL pointed out the golf course shown in the video to JVo and advised that the space underneath the elevated road is taken by the connections into the tunnel, so most of the space is utilised. CD said that there is a fair amount of space between the complex of the elevated Bulleen Road section to ensure it is still safe for the golf course. The area underneath the structure might end up being divested from council as it is needed for maintenance and access. JVo hoped that council will be reimbursed. JVo referred to the video and asked if there is anything to prevent kids from getting under and going down on top of the ventilation. MM: There will be a protective screen all around the actual bridge. FF asked if the stairs going out to the walkway are on the Manningham Club side or the Marcellin side. MM: They will be on the Marcellin side. FF asked about disability access. MM: There will be accessible ramps in certain locations on both sides and steps on the Marcellin side. FF referred to the video and asked if the grey section shown is a part of the shared path. MM: Yes. CD asked if the cladding of the ventilation structure will be reflective or not. MM: This question will be taken to the design team. ACTION CREATED – SC25 6-1 (CD requested to understand if the cladding of the ventilation structure is reflective).
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Questions and open forum RM sent an email and would like someone to talk about how all the SUPs will connect and coordinate together from Burke to Tram Road. ACTION CREATED – SC25 6-2 (Presentation on how all shared paths connect and coordinate across the North East Link). GJ asked when will the UDLP of Hoddle to Burke package be released. SG: Later this year. The exact date is yet to be confirmed. GJ said on the shared path heading towards Bulleen Road that passes the golf club, there is a new entrance onto the freeway across the shared path. GJ asked how this will be managed. GJ said a number of people mentioned this on social media but there is nothing indicating how this entrance will be used and no information about traffic management. JL: GJ to send an email with map and location and JL will respond. SC advised that Andrew Mangan has resigned from Manningham City Council, Shane will now be representing Manningham Council at CLG. CD said there were a lot of questions about ventilation design and filtration and will get in touch with Spark about responding to these questions. MM and JR: There are some 'meet the expert' drop-in sessions planned where any construction related questions, including

Owner	Discussion
	ventilation design, can be discussed. CD: The details of the sessions will be shared with the residents.

Actions – new

No.	Owner	Topic	Status
SC25 6-1	Spark & EBTA	CD requested to understand if the cladding of the ventilation structure is reflective.	MM will take this question to the design team.
SC25 6-2	MM	Presentation on how all shared paths connect and coordinate across North East Link.	To update when more information becomes available.

Additional information