

Minutes

Subject: February Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 08 February 2024

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Location: WGTP Information Centre

Apologies: Adam Bright, Steve Wilson, Pradeep Tiwari, Dennis Ryan, Shane D’Rosario, Liz Evans, Lachlan Sturt, Melanie Ryan, Mario Urban

Attendees

| Chair | Group/Association Members |
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| (KJ) Kim Jordan, Chair | (GB) Garry Brennan, Bike Network Victoria |
| Community Members | (GY) Glen Yates, Maribyrnong Truck Action Group (MTAG) |
| (AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville | (GM) Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek |
| (BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn | West Gate Tunnel Project MTIA Representatives |
| (SS) Senthill Sundaram, Point Cook | (AHV) Anthony Havers, Director of Communications & Engagement |
| (IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood | (PS) Paul Smith, Deputy Director Traffic & Network |
| (PG) Peter Gerrand, West and North Melbourne | (DM) Douglas Morris, Manager Community Relations |
| (FA) Fran Araneda, Kensington | (HT) Harley Thomas, Engagement Coordinator |
| (FS) Ferdinand Saliba, Deer Park | (ES) Ebru Saglam, Deputy Director Technical |
| (KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook | (CA) Cyrus Alorro, Project Manager |
| (CFR) Con Frescos, Yarraville | (SF) Shenell Fransz, Graduate |
| Council Members | Transurban Representatives |
| (AH) Adrian Havryluk, Maribyrnong City Council | (MF) Marcus Fosterling, Surface Manager |
| (IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council | (SD) Shani Duncan |
| (NH) Neil Hutchinson, City of Melbourne | (KN) Kathryn Norton, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Lead |
| | CPBJH Joint Venture Representatives |
| | (CD) Christian Dolezal, Manager, Stakeholder & Community Relations – Tunnels |
| | (CF) Charlie Fairbairn, Director - Civil & Surface Works |
| | (MM) Melissa Merrett, Stakeholder and Community Relations Lead – West Zone |

Agenda Items

| Time | # | Item detail | Owner |
|--------|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| 5.30pm | 1 | Welcome, introductions and apologies | Chair (Kim Jordan) |
| 5.35pm | 2 | WGTP MTIA update | WGTP MTIA (Anthony Havers & Douglas Morris) |
| 5:40pm | 3 | Future traffic operation | WGTP MTIA (Paul Smith) |
| 5.55pm | 4 | West update | CPBJH (Charlie Fairbairn) |
| 6.10pm | 5 | East update | CPBJH (Charlie Fairbairn) |
| 6.25pm | 6 | Tunnels update | CPBJH (Christian Dolezal) |
| 6.40pm | 7 | Actions update | All |
| 6.50pm | 8 | BREAK | All |
| 7.00pm | 9 | Member questions | CLG members |
| 7.30pm | 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 Anthony from MTIA as well as Shenell who has recently joined Douglas’ team at MTIA, as well as Paul Smith from MTIA who will be speaking on future traffic operations.

WGTP MTIA update

Grants and Partnerships – Anthony Havers

- The final round of West Gate Neighbourhood Fund grants and partnerships has been launched with \$8.75 million of the \$10 million funds having already been allocated to 120 projects for the entirety of the grants program from previous rounds.
- In the last round, smaller grants were well received, and there are opportunities for both community groups and councils to apply.

Footscray Road SUP Update

- (AHV) The Footscray Road shared path has been closed for some time now. We are working with the JV and DTP to reopen the shared path when it is safe to do so.

Community Outreach – Douglas Morris

- Outreach has been a major focus at the end of 2023 and early in 2024 with both the east and west zones of the project being notified about upcoming Summer Campaign works.
- The activation held at District Docklands in late December was well received by the community, after some very heavy impacts to the area with the closure of Wurundjeri Way and Dudley Street.
- The team is heading out to Altona Gate on Friday 9 February and Wyndham Multicultural Festival on Sunday February 18 to inform community about an upcoming M80/M1 traffic switch, set to occur in mid-February.
- We will also be back to District Docklands in late February to further support that community with the current closure of Wurundjeri Way and traffic impacts on Footscray Road.

Future traffic operation – Paul Smith

- (PS) The West Gate Bridge is at capacity even after it previously being extended from four to five lanes, to keep up with traffic demand. The aim of the West Gate Tunnel Project is to alleviate some of that pressure off the bridge.
- Traffic modelling undertaken during the EES (Environment Effects Study), considered variables including population growth, immigration, and major developments in the inner west, including precinct 15 and the Bradmill site.
- The focus of the project was to improve the east-west corridor of travel, by creating some redundancy on the existing arterial road connections by adding capacity to the West Gate Freeway and providing an alternative to the West Gate Bridge.
- 9000 trucks will come off local inner west roads, with 7,500 trucks expected to use the tunnel instead of the bridge, thus extending its life as well.

Future traffic operation questions

- **Q:** (IE) For those who won't use the freeway or tunnel, but use the existing arterial North/South links and road network, how will traffic improve for them?
- **A:** (PS) The project provides more redundancy to existing east west routes such as Francis Street and Blackshaws Road with more vehicles using the tunnel and freeway. Extra capacity has been added at major interchanges such as Millers Road and Williamstown Road - once all the ramps on all the interchanges are fully opened, we will understand a lot more about its success. There will be more ability to optimise traffic signalling when things are at their ultimate arrangement, and there will be a monitoring of the network by DTP for two years after project completion.
- **Q:** (GY) How will truck bans be enforced, and are you liaising with NHVR (National Heavy Vehicle Regulator) and DTP (Department of Transport and Planning) regarding day one compliance?
- **A:** (PS) Cameras monitoring these roads are being installed and engagement with these authorities is well underway.
(AHV) DTP is leading this work but the project will be heavily involved with the engagement with freight industry.
- **Q:** (KR) Will trucks be enforced to stay in the left-hand lane on the freeway?
- **A:** (PS) Not part of the plan at this stage and there's minimal evidence showing it to be successful for traffic flow.
- **Q:** (PG) How are the extra 9,600 vehicles flowing daily into West and North Melbourne - between the morning and evening peak times – going to be managed to avoid total congestion?
- **A:** (PS) The Wurundjeri Way extension will alleviate traffic in that area, as the Dynon Road Bridge is already at capacity. Off peak you will see extra vehicles coming through because of the new access that is provided, however peak traffic numbers will not change.
(DM) The EES traffic modelling is available online which is accessible to everyone.
- **Q:** (IB) Is there an option to open infrastructure early, especially the Hyde Street Ramps and shared paths?
- **A:** (PS) A lot of work to be done still on shared paths and there are conversations happening to get those assets open. The Hyde Street ramps are also being discussed.

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- **Q:** (BB) Millers Road already has a lot of trucks, and locals are finding it hard to even get out of their local streets, what is the plan for that area?
- **A:** (PS) There was a corridor study completed by DTP for Williamstown Road and Millers Road. The issue is out of project; however, it is being looked at.

Construction Update – Melissa Merrett, Charlie Fairbairn

West Zone

- (MM) Very busy engagement period in the west informing local community and businesses about upcoming and ongoing freeway closures. Pop ups were also held at Altona Gate Shopping centre, as well as Shell petrol station in Laverton.
- (CF) The major asphalt campaign on the West Gate Freeway is underway, with over 40,000 tonnes of asphalt being laid. During overnight freeway closures, there have been multiple overhead gantry installations occurring with some of the gantries measuring over 80 metres long and weighing up to 200 tonnes. Ultimate signage is also being installed where practical with 31 of 58 gantries in total now installed.
- Upcoming M80 traffic switch set to occur on the 16th of February until March. This is needed to get final road surface down.
- Williamstown Road ramp asphaltting is progressing well, and overhead signage is still to be installed. Final surface and line marking is occurring on the Williamstown Road inbound on ramp and will be opened to full capacity over the weekend. The opening of all the lanes on this ramp will provide additional capacity and help alleviate congestion.
- Asphalt works are now complete on the Princes Freeway outbound, with a dedicated left-hand lane now open for the Kororoit Creek Road exit.

West Zone questions

- **Q:** (IE) Is the current M80 traffic switch the final arrangement?
- **A:** (CF) For the express lanes, it is in its final arrangement. Once the project opens, if you are in the express lanes from the bridge to the M80, you will need to be in the left-hand lanes to head to Ballarat and the right-hand lanes for Geelong. If you are on the carriageway that takes traffic from the tunnel and on and off the freeway, you need to be in the left-hand lanes for Geelong and right-hand lanes for Ballarat.

- **Q:** (CFR) Will the Hyde Street ramps be tolled?
- **A:** (CF) Yes, they will be, for both cars and trucks.

- **Q:** (GM) Can we have an update on Kororoit Creek trail?
- **A:** (CF) Project parties are working towards opening the path as soon as possible.

- **Q:** (GM) Update on graffiti?
- **A:** (CF) A lot of clean-ups has occurred; areas hit hardest are looking good. An arrest has been made recently regarding graffiti crime on the project.

- **Q:** (IE) Landscaping and clean-up around Donald Mclean looks a lot better, will a new temporary fence be put in place soon?
- **A:** (CF) There is a new fence to be installed; working with council on final alignment.

- **Q:** (GY) Is there a reason there isn't a 'Keep Clear' outside of the KFC at Williamstown Road?
- **A:** (AHV) There was a temporary one in place, however it is not part of the ultimate arrangement.

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- **Q:** (FS) I posed a question at the November meeting about the M80 Federation Trail being reopened at Pipe Road?
- **A:** (CF) That section of path has been reopened.

East Zone

- (MM) East zone engagement started back in September, which included schools and Docklands businesses prior to Christmas. Working with freight industry and Port of Melbourne with Footscray Road changes, as well as Marvel Stadium and the AFL to prepare them for changes to Wurundjeri Way.
- (CF) Wurundjeri Way extension works have been extremely busy as crews lay down new pavement in the area, and there is good progress being made.
- Dynon Road lifts have occurred, to connect to a new elevated interchange to Dynon Road, CityLink and the Wurundjeri Way extension.
- New ramp above CityLink has been installed, which involved the shutdown of north and south CityLink lanes. Concrete panels are now being installed for the road deck on top.
- Footscray Road has had precast concrete segments being installed on top of the girders, with all of them being laid on the structures to the Maribyrnong River. You can now walk on the road deck all the way from the Northern Portal through to Dynon Road.
- Two large green pylons have been installed for the new Footscray Road walking and cycling bridge. From 19 February, Footscray Road will be closed to build the main structure of the bridge.
- (DM) Docklands businesses helped identify the quieter periods of business activity for the closure to have minimal effect on trade for businesses.

East Zone questions

- **Q:** (CFR) Are major events considered when planning works?
- **A:** (CF) Yes, they are, we have a major events calendar.

- **Q:** (NH) What's the engagement been with the school in the Dockland area?
- **A:** (MM) Regular contact being maintained, ongoing discussions with them and conversations about what kids drop offs and pickups look like in the area.
(KJ) While Adam Bright could not be here tonight, we did receive an email from him stating there has been little consultation directly with the school community and suggested setting up a stall at Little Docklands Drive at school drop off time to see firsthand impact of works.
(CF) Will follow up on engagement with the school.

Tunnel zone – Christian Dolezal

- (CD) There has been a lot of engagement around the Harris Street SUP works, as well as the North Yarra Main Sewer works. Businesses along Youell Street have been engaged with works around their area, and a lot happening around the surfaces of the tunnel.
- Harris Street Shared User Path will allow pedestrians to ride and walk past the tunnel portal. The crossheads need to be fitted, and concrete segments lifted on top. We're working with local businesses to minimise impacts where possible.
- The North Yarra Main Sewer had to be relocated due to tunnel works, and now we are constructing a new access hole for workers to access the sewer. Tunnel crews are currently closing the road gaps at the southern inbound portal and the large timber net structure will begin construction soon.
- The timber net structures are coming from New Zealand. These structures are unique, as they are the only wooden structure that we know about for a road project.

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- Cross passage construction is halfway to completion.
- The southern outbound portal ventilation structure is progressing well, and the structure is becoming very visible. The northern portal is a little bit behind in terms of size.

Tunnel Zone Questions

- **Q:** (CFR) Kindred Café owner has requested urgent help for his business, can something be done, and can I be included in conversations?
- **A:** (CD) We are helping with signage to point people towards the café, but if requested we will have further conversations with the owner.

Actions update

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

- (DM) Next meeting will involve something more broadly related to this action.

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

- No further update, teams are working towards a solution.
- (GM) Action needs to remain, and we should have a response as to when it is ready. Can we also include the opening of the Kororoit Creek shared path as an action?

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

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

- (CF) Graffiti is being cleaned where it can be without the need for traffic management.

Member questions and comments

Comments

- (CFR) Thank you for the upcoming support of the Yarraville Festival.
- (GY) Air Quality reports have fallen behind, with the last one coming in September.
- (DM) There is always a lag at the start of the year but will chase this up.
- (GY) Trucks are breaking curfew around the project area.
- (CF) Will follow that up, they are sub-contractors.
- (GY) Disappointed with the engagement with MTAG in relation to the North Yarra Main Sewer works, and there were 50 curfews broken last week in the inner west by trucks.
- (GY) There is a misconception that the gantries being installed are for tolling and that vehicles travelling along the West Gate Freeway will start being tolled before road opening.
- (GY) Trucks and traffic are getting the same green light at the Dynon Road and CityLink on ramp intersection, it is a safety risk and bears similarity to the incident seen on Footscray Road last year
(DM) It is an issue we are aware of and meeting with DTP regularly on.

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- (FS) My objective for 2024 is to receive an opening date for the Federation Trail section between Millers Road and Fogarty Avenue

Questions

- **Q:** (IE) Will air quality continued to be monitored post project completion?
- **A:** (PS) There will be 5 years of monitoring once the project has opened.

- **Q:** (FA) Is there an update to the horseshoe bridge?
- **A:** (AHV) There is progress on changing the design to a straight bridge. The project parties are working through the details.
- (MF) The resolution is close. Hopefully we can provide an update in the next few meetings.

- **Q:** (IE) Interested to know what the 2 years of monitoring after project completion looks like. If traffic impacts are still there after project completion, what are the next steps will be and what engagement will look like?
- **A:** (AHV) Conversations will shift in the lead up to and at road opening. Information around road readiness will be brought to CLG meetings in future.

Meeting close (7:55PM)

- (KJ) Closed the meeting by thanking members in person and online.
- Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place on Thursday March 21.