

26 July 2024



# Meeting Minutes

## Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	26/07/2024	Time	10:00am - 12:00pm
Chair	Mike Marasco	Meeting no.	5 of 2024
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Jasmin Lazzarotti

## Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Mike Marasco (MM)	Independent Chair	Andrew McGlade (AM)	Communications & Stakeholder Relations Advisor, NELP
Mia McMahon (MMc)	Community Engagement Manager, Spark	Hamid Peimany (HP)	Community Engagement Advisor, Spark
Mark Spolidoro (MS)	FRP Senior Project Engineer, Spark	Lauren Watson (LW)	Environment Manager - Bulleen, Spark
Julia Rogerson (JR)	Sustainability Advisor, Spark	Sam Doyle (SD)	Interface Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, NELP
Joshua Ribarich (JRi)	Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor, NELP	Rob Harper (RH)	Sustainability Manager, NELP
Jasmin Lazzarotti (JLa)	Communications Graduate, NELP	Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Senior Communication & Community Relations Manager, Burke to Tram Alliance (BTA)
Doug Talbot (DT)	Project Leader, Burke to Tram Alliance (BTA)	Leah McGuinness (LM)	Whitehorse City Council
Judith Voce (JV)	Community Representative	John van Delft (JD)	Community Representative
Frank Freschi (FF)	Community Representative	Alexander Law (AL)	Community Representative
Otto Sargent (OS)	Community Representative	Ros Magee (RM)	Community Representative
Joe Carbone (JC)	Community Representative	Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council

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Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Michael Hobbs (MH)	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Manager, NELP	Nic Morton (NM)	Senior Communications & Stakeholder Relations Advisor, NELP
Bruce Plain (BP)	Community Representative	Glennys Jones (GJ)	Community Representative

## Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 4-1	Provide progress update to FF on investigation to adjust road signs	MH	06/09/24	OPEN	Action remains open. Provide next update at meeting on 06/09.

## Actions – Long Term

No	Owner	Topic	Status
S8-1(2021)	MHi	JV asks about ball net fencing at Freeway Golf Course (FGC) and that NELP should be responsible for funding this on top of existing works at the site. At the meeting on 25.08.23 JV reported Freeway golfers are hitting many balls from the first tee onto the area designated for the off-ramp to the Bulleen Road tunnel and therefore emphasises the need for the ball net to be funded.	Netting is being implemented and conversations are ongoing about whether this will be a temporary or permanent measure.
S14-1	MHi	MHi to investigate potential for installing radar crossings for pedestrians	MHi to advise if these will be installed at some intersections/interchanges
S5-1	MH	Will Templestowe Rd will be duplicated as part of the intersection being signalised	MH to advise once information is available
S6-4	MH	MH to provide GJ details of Shared User Path (SUP) works as requested below Breakdown of SUPs including kms of new paths and those that are simply being replaced, eg: existing path destroyed and relocated replacement paths. Further information also requested on shared path removal, specifically the shared path on the west side of Bulleen Road Bridge, (there are no north bound bike lanes across the interchange between to connect the on road north bound bike lanes leaving vulnerable road users to mix with heavy vehicles, or to be significantly delayed by at least 8 call buttons. A shared path would provide the only safe and direct north bound crossing.	MH to advise once information is available
SC24 1-3	MH	AL has requested that feedback received and mitigations (including for PTV operator) that	MH to advise once information is available

No	Owner	Topic	Status
		were put in place for the Bulleen Rd stage two closure be shown after these works	
SC24 3-1	JLe	JV wants to know more about what plants will be planted and if it will be tube stock.	JL to present on what species will be planted once that information is available.
SC24 3-2	MH	GJ raised the issue of traffic light times being too long at the primary school crossing	MH to investigate

## Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Mike Marasco (MM)	<b>Welcome and introductions.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledged apologies</li> <li>Previous meeting adopted</li> </ul>
Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)	<b>Outstanding actions addressed</b> JLe addresses Action SC24 4-1: BTA have implemented short term signage changes and a positive change in driver behaviour is evident but are seeking approval for more long-term signage changes in this area. Action remains open.

Owner	Action
Tom McCann (TMc)	<p><b>North East Link tunnel construction update</b></p> <p>FF requested a construction milestone timeline for Jan-July 2025.</p> <p><b>ACTION – Spark to provide a construction milestone timeline for Jan-July 2025</b></p>
Mia McMahon (MMc)	<p><b>Bridge Street update - Tunnel wall operations</b></p> <p>FF expresses concern over Bridge St disruptions and delays this may cause.</p> <p>TMc and MMc expressed that the Bridge St closures are expected to add 10 mins of extra travel time on Bridge St but assureds that there are measures in place to mitigate disruption to road users, including closures in off-peak periods, only closing certain lanes and that there are upcoming stakeholder presentations scheduled to inform locals in advance.</p> <p>FF expressed concern over the traffic bottle up on Banksia Street this may cause. TMc explained that the project can't obtain more space in the north to build the ramps, so will be obtaining as little space as possible in the east/west direction.</p> <p>AL asked for detail around the timeline of communications collateral about the Bridge St disruptions, so the wider community knows what to expect in advance.</p> <p>MMc explained that communications have been tailored for 2-3,000 people in the local area, in conjunction with a wider Victoria's Big Build campaign.</p> <p>RM emphasised the importance of notifying people in advance, so they have flexibility and time to avoid the area.</p> <p>MMc assured that the project is planning on delivery communications in advance and that VMS will go out two weeks before the closures.</p> <p>RM asked about the bridge around the Heidelberg wetlands to the west of the project, looking for clarity on what the final design will look like.</p> <p>TMc explained the design of the cultural wetlands in this area and the visual of the bridge over the billabongs/ponds. TMc explained that there is a sliver of environmentally protected parkland in this area. MMc referred RM to the <a href="#">interactive map on the VBB website</a>.</p> <p>RM stated that this was a missed opportunity to connect the SUP on the project with the Main Yarra trail.</p>

Owner	Action
<p>Lauren Watson (LW)</p>	<p><b>North East Link - Environment Update as per presentation</b></p> <p>CD asked where the air quality data goes and if it's publicly released. LW explained the data is not publicly released but is reviewed monthly as part of the IREA</p> <p>JV asked what happens if the air quality monitors detect irregularly high levels of dust? LW explained that works would be dropped back, street sweepers and watercarts would be sent out and more long-term solutions will be investigated if there is a consistently irregular trend coming through in the data.</p> <p>RM asked if the project has ever had to shut down construction activities due to a similar situation. LW explained that reducing construction activities is very common if there's factors involved such as adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>JC asked what the air quality monitors are measuring. LW explained that the monitors measure levels of PM2.5 and PM10 but, in certain cases, will implement further air quality monitors if necessary. This is implemented on an as-needed basis depending on specific construction activities.</p> <p>FF asked if the team moves the monitors from different locations at different times. LW reiterated comments above and provides examples such as one set of monitors that have been out for 18 months and will not move for the entire project. But smaller monitors, such as the ones out the front of the Veneto Club, will move depending on where the active work front is located. CD mentioned that the Yarra Riverkeeper Association has been given a grant from the NECF to do rehabilitation on the Bolin Bolin Billabong and asked how that works in, and relates to, the project. <b>SD: ACTION – NEL to investigate and respond.</b></p>
<p>Rob Harper (RH)</p>	<p><b>NEL Sustainability Update</b></p> <p>JV asked about the reasoning behind noise and air quality assessments at the tunnel entrance only being undertaken at certain intervals upon project completion. <b>RH: ACTION – NEL to investigate and provide more specific details.</b> RH explained that it is likely due to the lack of drastic changes that would occur year-to-year in fleet numbers, as a possible explanation.</p> <p>JV asked if the project would consider speed reductions for noise and air quality purposes. RH said he is not personally responsible for fleet optimisation but explained that there is a team who looks at the optimal level of speed for noise and air quality. <b>ACTION – RH to investigate fleet optimisation further and provide more details for JV.</b></p> <p>RM asked whether the energy efficient fans will be replaced in accordance with technological advancements in the equipment. RH said that all the fans are retrofittable. All the equipment that goes into the tunnel is designed to have a specific service life and is also designed to be replaced with ease. NEL has an ongoing relationship with the supplier who understands the need to replace, upgrade and recycle equipment as technology progresses.</p> <p>RM asked which sustainability targets are of particular concern to the project. RH indicated that the targets around spoil meeting fully categorised and reused requirements are of high importance as well as renewable energy targets. RH explained NEL's environment team goes to great lengths to address and monitor the data at a very fine scale and are confident that it is in hand at the moment.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>FF asked if the project is planning to clean the air particulates coming out of the ventilation structure. RH explained how modelling indicates that the project will not require scrubbers in the ventilation structure. However, the capacity to install scrubbers retroactively has been implemented into the design of the structure.</p> <p>JR added that the tunnel ventilation system includes ongoing monitoring which allows the ventilation fans to operate on demand, adding it is a great carbon saving system which consistently indicates the quantity of particulates present.</p> <p>SD added that particulate levels are monitored a year before the tunnel opens to traffic and then five years later to compare what was modelled and what has occurred.</p> <p><b>RH: ACTION – NEL to provide more detail to confirm reasoning as requested by JV, MM and FF</b></p> <p>JV asked why the project does not install scrubbers initially. RH explained that scrubbers require a large amount of energy to keep operational and that modelling indicates it is unlikely they'll need to be implemented.</p>
Julia Rogerson (JR)	<b>Sustainability case studies as per presentation.</b>
MMc	<b>Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) presentation</b>
Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)	<p><b>Eastern Freeway update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What's new</li> <li>- What's coming up</li> <li>- Community initiatives update</li> </ul>
	<p>CD raises that the traffic signals on the outbound offramp are sitting low and are difficult for drivers to see.</p> <p><b>JLe: ACTION – take on feedback and investigate lifting them.</b></p>
	<p>MM follows-up on the long-term outstanding item (S8-1 (2021)) about permanent netting on the golf course to avoid balls going onto the freeway.</p> <p>JLe provides an update that netting is currently being implemented and that there are ongoing conversations about whether this will be a temporary or permanent measure.</p>
	<p><b>Koonung Creek Trail Update</b></p> <p>SD provides an update on long-standing action related to signage. Explains that we've implemented CLG feedback and are adopting the QR code on the signage, as per suggestion from GJ.</p>
	<p>OS asks if the Bulleen Road bus stop at the EF on-ramp is guaranteed to reopen. JLe confirms it will re-open but long-term will be moved 800m north, to the other side of the freeway, as the Eastern Busway runs along the northern side of the freeway.</p>
	<p>CD shares positive feedback about the Koonung Creek Trail, including the quality and width. But express dissatisfaction around the uneven line marking and localised flooding from the site compound spilling onto the SUP.</p>
	<p><b>Action – JLe to investigate improvements for linemarking on Koonung Creek Trail.</b></p> <p><b>Action – JLe to investigate flooding from compound onto Koonung Creek Trail.</b></p>
	<p>CD shares that they have often seen concrete trucks and other construction vehicles driving along the SUP. FF agrees and adds that the trucks leave dirt and mud on the SUP at times. JLe understands and validates these concerns.</p>
	<p><b>Action – JLe to investigate construction vehicles driving on Koonung Creek trail</b></p>

Owner	Action
	<p>Otto asks whether the footpath at Leonis Avenue will reopen?            JLe confirms it will reopen in October at the conclusion of the current realignment works</p>
AM	<p><b>Addressing community feedback</b></p> <p>RM expresses discontentment towards lack of action on improving lighting at Bourke Road, several months after the issue was raised. Says he will escalate further if issue is not addressed soon.            JLe reiterates that the area is not within the scope of North East Link. SD has escalated within MRPV to get DTP to act on the issue.  <b>ACTION – SD to continue to escalate to DTP, including RM in the conversations, and ensuring it doesn't lag to next SCLG.</b></p> <p>RM requests an update on long term lighting along the freeway alignment.            JLe reiterates that it is safe according to RSA but can follow-up on the status. AM reiterates that the most efficient way to get a response for concerns of this nature is calling the contact centre.  <b>ACTION – JLe to provide updated ETA on long term lighting.</b></p> <p>MM asks whether the design for the motorway control centre is complete and requests a presentation on this.  <b>ACTION – Hamid to go back to spark for slides on design for Motorway control centre, to present at a future SCLG.</b></p> <p>AL enquires about data on incidents and near misses at the Freeway Entrance site. Asks what is happening in the next 6-12months.            JLe agrees that the current situation is not ideal and is not long term. Access from freeway is the way in and once site in Doncaster Road is established, haul road will be implemented. Both sites not set up yet.  <b>ACTION - JLe to report back on safety at freeway entrance site and provide an update on this at the next SCLG.</b></p> <p>SD addressed JV's request for an update on how CFMEU effects the project.            SD explains that North East Link is part of the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA). VIDA is committed to assisting the authorities with any investigations into fraud and corruption on construction sites. The Premier has announced an independent investigation, and we will await the outcomes of that investigation. Under current industrial laws there is no specific prohibition on allowing flags to be flown on a construction site. The management of this issue is the responsibility of the principal contractor and we expect all parties comply and adhere to industrial relations laws at VBB work sites.</p> <p>CD notes that the floodplain management action has been on the actions list since last year.  <b>ACTION – put an updated section in the future presentations part of the agenda before each SCLG.</b></p>
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p><b>Other business</b></p> <p>Next meeting Friday 6 September.            Thanked SCLG members and presenters.            Closed the meeting at 12:02</p>

## Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 5-1	Provide a construction milestone timeline for Jan-July 2025	MMc	6/09/2024	OPEN	
SC24 5-2	The Yarra River has been given a grant from the NECF to do rehabilitation on the Bolin Bolin Billabong. SD to investigate and provide CD with details on how this relates to the project.	SD		OPEN	
SC24 5-3	RH to provide more details to JV on the reasoning behind noise and air quality assessments at the tunnel entrance only being undertaken at certain intervals upon project completion	RH		OPEN	
SC24 5-4	RH to investigate fleet optimisation further and come back with more details for JV.	RH		OPEN	
SC24 5-5	RH to provide more details to JV, MM and FF on why there are no scrubbers in ventilation structure.	RH		OPEN	
SC24 5-6	CD raises that the traffic signals on the Bulleen Road outbound offramp are sitting low and are difficult for drivers to see. JLe to investigate lifting them.	JLe			
SC24 5-7	JLe to investigate improvements for linemarking on Koonung Creek Trail.	JLe			
SC24 5-8	JLe to investigate flooding from compound onto Koonung Creek Trail.	JLe			
SC24 5-9	JLe to investigate construction vehicles driving on Koonung Creek trail	JLe			
SC24 5-10	RM expresses discontentment towards lack of action on improving lighting at Burke Road. SD to continue to escalate to DTP, including RM in the conversations, and ensuring it doesn't lag to next SCLG.	SD	ASAP		
SC24 5-11	JLe to provide RM updated ETA on long term lighting along freeway alignment	JLe			
SC24 5-12	HP to prepare slides on design for Motorway Control Centre, to present at next SCLG.	HP	06/09/24	OPEN	
SC24 5-13	AL enquires about data on incidents and near misses at the Freeway Entrance site. Asks what is happening in the next 6-	JLe	06/09/24		



No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
	12months. JLe to report back on safety at freeway entrance site and provide an update on this at the next SCLG.				
SC24 5-14	<p>CD notes that the floodplain management action has been on the actions list since last year.</p> <p>SD to put an “updates” section in the future presentations as part of the agenda before each SCLG.</p>	SD		OPEN	