

Minutes

Subject: May Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 1 May 2025 **Time:** 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: WGTP Information Centre

Apologies: Steve Wilson, Adam Bright, Senthill Sundaram, Arthur Bregiannis, Ferdi Saliba, Fran Araneda, Ilona Elmore,

Guests: Andrew Newman (AN), Jess Murdoch (JM) Department of Transport & Planning (DTP)

Chair: (KJ) Kim Jordan

Attendees:

Community Members	Major Road Project Victoria, Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority Representatives
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	(SDR) Shane D'Rozario, Director Operations
(CFR) Con Frescos, Yarraville	(DM) Douglas Morris, Manager Community Relations
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	(LE) Liz Evans, Deputy Director Engagement
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	(JT) Jordana Thornton, Engagement Coordinator
Group/Association Members	Transurban Representatives
(GB) Garry Brennan, Bike Network	(MR) Melanie Ryan, Senior Manager – Strategic Communications and Engagement
(GY) Glen Yates, Maribyrnong Truck Action Group	(MBR) Max Burney, Stakeholder Engagement Lead
(GM) Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek	Joint Venture Representatives
Council Members	(DK) Dylan Kunst, Civil & Surface Manager
(EM) Eloise McGurn, City of Melbourne	(MM) Melissa Merrett, Community & Stakeholder Relations Manager
(MB) Melissa Best, Maribyrnong City Council	(MU) Mario Urban, Senior Communications, Community & Stakeholder Relations Manager
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	
(NH) Neil Hutchinson, City of Melbourne	

Agenda Items

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.30 pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair (Kim Jordan)
5.35 pm	2	No-truck zones update	Andrew Newman, Jess Murdoch (Department of Transport and Planning)
5.50 pm	3	WGTP MRPV update	WGTP MRPV
6.00 pm	4	Community engagement update	CPBJH JV
6.10 pm	5	Construction update	CPBJH JV
6.25 pm	6	Preparing for road opening	Tolling update (Transurban) Honorary naming (Transurban)
6.40 pm	7	BREAK	All
6.50 pm	8	Member workshop	All
7.10 pm	9	Member questions	CLG members

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. Jessica Murdoch & Andrew Newman returning from Department of Transport & Planning to provide a further update on no-truck zones. Max Burney Stakeholder Engagement Lead at Transurban.

Actions update

- Nil.

No-truck zones update – Andrew Newman & Jessica Murdoch (Department of Transport & Planning)

- AN provided a short update to members on the progress of the no-truck zones implementation that will roll out when the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) opens.
- AN briefly touched on the camera technology used to monitor the roads in the west is a machine learning system which has been running since 2022. The cameras can detect the classification of each truck as it drives past based on the number of axels.
- AN stated contracts have recently been signed to commence instalment of cameras on allocated roads and reminded members of the camera that is installed on Somerville Road and fully operational.
- AN mentioned Francis Street, Blackshaws Road and Somerville Road will have 2 cameras due to the length of the road, with remaining streets Buckley Street, Moore Street and Hudsons Road each having one camera, resulting in trucks being identified no matter which route is taken.
- AN said that DTP own the camera systems and the intellectual property and will pass all data over to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR).
- AN spoke through certain exemptions for some trucks such as small delivery trucks, garbage trucks, concrete trucks and tow trucks.
- AN made mention of DTP's engagement program rolling out with businesses and communities on, and near, no-truck zones to ensure they are aware of the project and its benefits and are prepared for the changes ahead, including joining WGTP on their shopping centre roadshow.

Member questions:

Q: (DR) Is the control centre for the cameras controlled by VicRoads? Is it a set up purely for infringements or for traffic control too?

A: (AN) The cameras are there to identify trucks, the information is sent onto NHVR to manage the enforcement (provide fines). Traffic monitoring cameras are already in place with data being published on the VicRoads website.

Q: (KR) How do permits work for community members living around these areas who might hire a truck/container to be delivered to their house?

A: (AN) If the route taken by the truck is the only way to get to their house, then they would be legally exempt. DTP are still working through the process on how this will be determined.

Q: (DR) Has this software been used anywhere else in Australia?

A: (AN) No it hasn't been used before. The technology was created and tested in 2022 specifically for identifying and removing trucks in the inner west.

Q: (GY) Will there be signage identifying the no-truck zones?

A: (AN) Yes, the funding provided will cover payment for signage. An extensive audit has been conducted to determine which signs are required, including "you are approaching a no-truck zone", "you are in a no-truck zone" and "you are leaving a no-truck zone".

Q: (GY) Will Google/Apple maps be updated to advise truck drivers of no-truck zones?

A: (JM) Unfortunately they don't have the capacity to include approved truck routes.

Q: (IE) With the engagement approach, Spotswood Football Club would be happy to support as a potential venue for any future information sessions to help educate community about 'no truck zones'.

A: (JM) Thanked Ilona and will pass onto their comms team for consideration.

Q: (IB) What monitoring will occur on surrounding streets to monitor trucks rat running to avoid the new freeway and tunnel tolls and truck bans and what mitigation measures are being considered, e.g. using Kororoit Creek Road, Millers Road, Mason Street, Melbourne Road, North Road, Douglas Pde?

A: (AN) Due to the placement of the cameras, trucks will be identified regardless of which route they take, and fines will be provided. DTP will also be undertaking traffic monitoring for two years post project and can evaluate the need for any future truck monitoring based on noticeable behaviour changes on opening.

Q: (IB) How can residents report non-compliant trucks?

A: (GY) There is a confidential reporting line run by the NHVR, where residents can provide truck registrations, location, time etc.

A: (JM) DTP comms team are putting together some road user guides to help advise which routes truck drivers can take.

Q: (KR) How will DTP be educating residents?

A: (AN) As noted in the update, DTP have commenced their education to residents including creating a [webpage](#) hosting a lot of information on no-truck zones and exemptions etc, as well as creating factsheets online and in print, hosting community pop-ups commencing in July i.e. shopping centres, and developing pocket maps and other simple materials.

WGTP MRPV update – Douglas Morris

- **Latest news:**

- Noted some big project milestones taking place over the last 6 weeks including WGTP's education campaign commencing at Avalon Airshow, attending multi-cultural Australian Islamic Event and the cable stay shared path bridge over Footscray Road opening.
- Mentioned approximately 8,000 people engaged with the WGTP activation at the Avalon Airshow between March 25 – 30, with almost 4,000 people stopping by to chat with the team regarding the project.

- **Upcoming regional shopping centre activations:**

- DM highlighted that dates are confirmed for upcoming shopping centre activations in the regions and metropolitan areas. DM stated the team are starting in Bendigo on Friday 2 May.

Community Engagement update – Melissa Merrett & Mario Urban

- **Opening of the walking & cycling bridge over Footscray Road:** MU noted successful engagement with residents, businesses and cycling community on the opening of the cable stay bridge over Footscray Road including site tours late 2024 and a pop up on opening day to communicate with cyclists.
- **Pearl River Road reopening:** MU mentioned concerns raised by community members on inadequate lighting in area, crews have installed temporary lighting to mitigate this matter until permanent lighting is installed.
- **Crane Demobilisation works:** MM mentioned the recent WGF weekend works in April to remove the large crane that help build the outbound portal exit. MM spoke to the large amount of engagement completed to ensure all road users were aware of the major disruptions.
- **Noise complaints near southern inbound entrance site:** MM spoke to a few complaints received at the end of March and explained check ins were done with each resident, offered respite and advised that night noise works will cease.
- **Water leak in Spotswood over Easter:** MM advised the project were advised over the Easter break of a leak taking place at a well monitoring system, crews were able to see to it and fix the issue.

Construction Update – Dylan Kunst

- **Tunnels update:** DK stated mechanical works are currently being done inside the tunnel including electrical fit outs, installation of cables and testing works. Crews are preparing for asphaltting works to commence in coming months to build the roads inside both tunnels.
- **Southern Portals:** DK mentioned at the southern portal all timber net structures are completely built, with diagrid installation on ventilation structures is ongoing and taking shape along with cladding panels.
- **Northern Portal:** DK advised members of basin works near the Northern portal that are still ongoing along with landscaping works commencing in the area. Asphaltting for the roads in the tunnels will commence near the northern portal entrance/exit in the next few weeks.
- **Crane demobilisation:** A timelapse video was shared with members showcasing the crane demobilisation over a weekend in April, where the West Gate Freeway (WGF) experienced disruptions. DK stated that works were successful. DK said that lane arrangements on the WGF are mostly in the final configuration.
- **Footscray Road bridge opening:** DK spoke to the successful early opening of the new cable stay bridge over Footscray Road and mentioned the safety benefits for cyclists and pedestrians now avoiding crossing at traffic intersections.
- **Veloway:** DK advised members of veloway works currently taking place including the fit out of lights, final stages of installing the protective netting, installation of electrical devices such as emergency detectors and laying down the anti-slip grip layer this month.
- **Footscray Road:** DK spoke to recent asphaltting completed on Footscray Road near Dock link Road which will reopen in coming months. DK noted that landscaping is being completed around Footscray Road.

Graffiti update

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

Member questions –

Q: (NH) Requested the replanting schedule to be sent through to him. LE noted that this was requested by Fran (FoMPC) at this forum.

A: (MU) Noted he will reach out to Fran to pass on this information and will send through details to NH.

Q: (KJ) Read out questions sent ahead of the meeting from Fran Araneda (FoMPC). Noting the relevant project parties will follow these up.

1. The [Arden Structure Plan](#) (approved in 2022) refers to the *Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan*, which is an initiative funded by the West Gate Tunnel Project as a recommendation of the project's Inquiry and Advisory Committee Report (October 2017). See page 76. The Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan was removed from the Victorian Planning Authority's (VPA) work program last year and the webpage was archived in October. I would like to understand why it has been taken off the VPA work program. I would also like an update on what actions/works have been undertaken as part of the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan.
2. Can we get a copy of the planting plan for the Bridge 75 environs and the wetlands complex?
3. Are any interpretation panels going to be placed on Bridge 75 or nearby?

Preparing for road opening update – Melanie Ryan

- **Honorary naming:**
 - MR provided an update to members on the honorary naming program stating the "Name Your Twin Tunnels" competition received over 3000 entries and are currently going through the process of eligibility. MR stated the project is speaking with traditional owners and managing the process of indigenous names respectfully.
 - MR invited members to keep sharing naming ideas, noting they are keen to name the new green bridge over Footscray Road.
 - DM shared with members a naming suggestion of "Noon" for the Footscray Road bridge from CLG member Dennis Ryan.
- **Transurban tolling strategy:**
 - MR provided an update on Transurban's tolling strategy for the West Gate Tunnel Project, noting that tolling will help balance traffic across the freeway network and help fund the tunnel's construction and operation.
 - MR mentioned there will be four toll points along the project corridor with prices varying depending on the type of vehicle being driven.

- MR touched on heavy vehicle tolling information, stating they will pay a single total toll when travelling on the updated WGF, new tunnels and city connections. The toll point is located on the WGF between Millers and Williamstown Road, meaning they will be tolled whether the destination is the tunnels; the Hyde Street ramps or continuing along the freeway over the West Gate Bridge.
- MR spoke through the new toll class of 'long heavy commercial vehicle' for heavy commercial vehicles 26 metres and longer travelling in the new tunnels and/or Citylink. MR also noted other various tolling categories including multi-trip discounts, time of day tolling, AM peak toll and placarded loads.
- MR mentioned that Transurban are rolling out a communications plan to ensure drivers are well informed of tolling information, especially to the freight industry prior to the project opening.

Member workshop – Douglas Morris

- DM explained to members the project is looking at tailored materials for localised areas to build community awareness of the project. DM noted the project is leaning on existing relationships such as CLG members, councils etc. to help disseminate these tailored educational materials
- DM showed engagement material examples including information stands, factsheets, stacked boxes, pocket guides etc.
- DM asked members to fill in sheet of paper exercise detailing the following:
 - Who, in terms of groups, locations, organisations, do you think would benefit from educational project materials? How have they been impacted by the project? Who do you think may be interested in partnering to help share our resources?
 - What kind of information or visual tools do you think would have the most effective impact? Where else could we consider having some of these engagement materials?
 - Are there any upcoming events or public spaces where you think the project (or our other tools like the driver simulator) could be effectively showcased?

Break (7:00PM)

Member questions –

Q: (DR) Stated on the WGF, Millers Road inbound exit is narrow, when drivers realise they are not in the correct lane to exit at Millers Road while doing 80km it doesn't provide much space or time for them to merge over safely. DR suggested to include a sign saying, "left hand lane Millers Road exit only".

A: (SDR) Acknowledged that signage is being looked at in that area. SDR reiterated that lanes are mostly in final arrangement on the WGF and stated that might need to be communicated to drivers a bit more. SDR also noted he is feeding all Millers Road feedback to DTP and encouraged members to continue to raise these matters in CLG meetings as lane and traffic changes can be investigated to improve traffic and safety.

Q: (NH) Requested offset planting package to be sent through to him.

A: (MU) Stated this would be sent through.

Q: (GY) Asked what the timeframe for asphaltting in both tunnels is?

A: (SDR) Take question on notice.

Q: (GY) Requested Transurban acronym list for tolling categories.

A: (MR) Agreed they will send it through.

Q: (GY) Asked if Simcock Avenue Hyde Street on ramp was in the final configuration. Requested a keep clear sign to be installed at the intersection as truck movements may increase.

A: (SDR) Noted yes, it is in the final alignment, and they will work with Hobsons Bay if a keep clear sign is required.

SDR also noted to CLG members that when a project asset (bridge, path or piece of infrastructure) is closed to the public it will always be for a good reason, usually health and safety related. The project still notices members of the public trying to access closed assets which poses a huge safety risk to them and others. SDR reminded CLG members that health and safety is of the upmost importance to the project and assets will open when it is safe to do so.

Member comments –

- CFR stated issues with Traffic Management VMS signs being in the wrong places.
- DR noted again that Marigold Avenue is still experiencing a lot of traffic congestion.

- KR mentioned community members tend to complain about the WGF signage and Millers Road exit lane configuration.
- GM advised that the two security hoops that were to be placed at the federation trail hasn't occurred yet.
- NH noted great to see green bridge over Footscray Road open, looking forward for the connection on Dynon Road to open.

Meeting close (7:40PM)

- (KJ) Closed the meeting and thanked members.
- Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place Thursday 12 June 2025.