

Minutes

Subject: October Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 19 October 2023

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Location: WGTP Information Centre

Apologies: Dennis Ryan, Melanie Ryan, Neil Hutchinson, Fran Araneda, Mario Urban, Neil Hutchinson, Glen Yates, Steve Wilson, Adrian Ashford, Claude Manno, Ferdinand Saliba

Attendees

Chair	Group/Association Members
(KJ) Kim Jordan, Chair	(GB) Garry Brennan, Bike Network Victoria
Community Members	(GM) Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek
(AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville	MTIA Representatives
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	(SDR) Shane D'Rozario, West Gate Tunnel Project, Major Transport Infrastructure Authority (WGTP MTIA)
(MDL) Marlon De Leon, Tarneit	(LE) Liz Evans, WGTP MTIA
(CFR) Con Frescos, Yarraville	(DM) Douglas Morris, WGTP MTIA
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	(CA) Cyrus Alorro, WGTP MTIA
(PT) Pradeep Tiwari, Footscray	(HT) Harley Thomas, WGTP MTIA
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(ES) Ebru Saglam, WGTP MTIA
(ADB) Adam Bright, Docklands	Transurban Representatives
(PG) Peter Gerrand, North and West Melbourne	(LS) Lachlan Sturt, Transurban
Council Members	Joint Venture Representatives
(AH) Adrian Havryluk, Maribyrnong City Council	(CD) Christian Dolezal, CPBJH JV
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	(MM) Melissa Merrett, CPBJH JV (CD)
(EM) Eloise McGurn, City of Melbourne	(SC) Samantha Choudhury, CPBJH JV
	(CF) Charlie Fairbairn, CPBJH JV

Agenda Items

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.30pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair
5.40pm	2	WGTP MTIA updates	WGTP MTIA
5.50pm	3	Construction update	CPBJH JV
6:20pm	4	Actions Update	All
6:45pm	5	BREAK	All
7:00pm	6	Member questions	Community members
7.30pm	7	Meeting end	Chair

Introduction

- (KJ) Gave an Acknowledgement of Country.
- (KJ) Welcomed attendees in person and online and stated apologies for the night. Welcomed a new member to the CLG, Adam Bright, representative for Docklands.
- (ADB) Introduced himself as Principal of Docklands Primary School. Looks forward to working with the group.

WGTP MTIA update

Grants and Partnerships

- (DM) Update provided on Grants and Partnerships. Sunbury and Bulla Neighbourhood Fund is at its halfway point, with over \$900,000 paid out, almost 50% of the fund. Further information to be provided in the final CLG meeting about the most recent round of West Gate Neighbourhood Fund applications.
- West Gate Neighbourhood Fund has quite a few projects moving into completions phase, with the Williamstown Jetty refurbishment underway and expected to be completed by end of year and projects from Genzine, VU Music, Hobsons Bay Wetlands and L2R Dance delivered through September and October.
- Over 70 projects have been funded so far by the WGNF, with nearly 50 projects complete.

Community Outreach

- (DM) Update provided on recent community outreach. Ventilation Structure Engagement for the Northern Tunnel Portal took place across Yarraville Gardens and Bunbury Street. A final pop up is scheduled at Footscray Arts Centre next Tuesday 24 October.
- MTIA and TU staff attended Ride 2 Work day hosted by Bicycle Network at Harbour Esplanade and spoke with hundreds of riders about the future Veloway above Footscray Road, and the new and upgraded walking and cycling path connections the project will deliver. The event was well organised and well attended with many people also interested in the works and shared path disruptions along Footscray Road and interest in the major structures across the east zone.

Construction Update

West Zone

- (MM) Engagement for the west has involved informing residents abutting the freeway around ongoing major works, including freeway road and ramp closures. An information pop-up at Spotswood train station will be held soon to inform businesses and commuters around upcoming works on the Hall Street walking and cycling path.
- (CF) The Hyde Street inbound off ramp recently had a new tolling gantry installed on 26 September. The green side panels are about a month away from being completed. The ramps are starting to look like a finished product with painting and finishing works to be completed.
- Williamstown Road has had landscaping work done, including around the widened Williamstown Road inbound entry ramp. Signage brackets have been installed on the interchange with final bridge signage to be installed at the end of the year along with final surfacing of the pavement in December.
- Road repair work and litter cleaning is occurring along the Williamstown Road outbound exit ramp and the team is currently completing the noise wall panels along the Donald Mclean reserve area. A second left hand turn lane has also been opened on the ramp which is part of the ultimate design for the intersection.

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- The Kororoit Creek shared user path starting to look like a complete path. The footpath is complete underneath the West Gate Freeway.
- West Gate Freeway completed barriers between the express lanes and carriageway lanes. Final road surfacing and the overhead signage structures are to be completed over the next few months.
- 12 feature light poles have been installed at the M80 interchange. CPBJH JV will install the 2m long lights that sit on top of the poles in November and will start the finishing process in the next few months.
- Road pavement on the new ramp from West Gate Freeway to Princes Freeway is complete, which will take traffic from the express lanes through to Princes Freeway. Final pavement and line marking of M80 interchange ramps to be completed in the next few months.

West zone questions

- **Q:** (IE) Can we get better signage on the freeway area in the lead up to the Williamstown Road inbound exit ramp, particularly when the ramp is closed?
- **A:** (CF) The area is challenging as there is a very limited amount of space to be working in. This does limit the amount of VMS signage that can be used, however there will be new overhead signage that will be installed over the coming months that will help with this issue.
- **Q:** (IE) WGTP workers are taking up parking along The Avenue, Spotswood to access the Williamstown Road outbound exit ramp worksite, and there are some council works coming up in the area, can WGTP workers park elsewhere?
- **A:** (CF) We will take that on notice and put out a notice to workers not to park along there.
- (DM) If the issue persists, and you notice workers parking there, please contact us through our contact centre.

East Zone

- (SC) Recent engagement has been focused on the major works happening at the Wurundjeri Way and Dudley Street intersection and on Footscray Road. There have been visits and meetings with Docklands Primary School and businesses in the area. CPBJH JV has been providing customised maps and collateral to stakeholders. Complaints around access for businesses and pedestrians have been noted and being worked through.
- (CF) In a major milestone for the east, all girders have been installed to connect the Maribyrnong River bridges to the elevated road above Footscray Road and into the Port. Work is now being done to dismantle the large crane at the western end of Footscray Road. This crane lifted the final girders into place, and once dismantled, will be sent back to Western Australia. Finishing works will also begin on the bridges, including the installation of the new fish scale cladding.
- Works are progressing on the connection point from Citylink into the elevated roadway, this will be the ramp commuters will use if travelling into the city from the airport. This piece of work involves highly technical lifts, with some girders weighing close to 500 tonnes. The steel work will be done by the end of the year with the concrete fit out and road deck to follow.
- Dynon Road has been a key piece of work over the last month, building in the new connection from Dynon Road into the Wurundjeri Way connection, the steel works are progressing well with most of the main girders installed.
- Installed 14 girders over the Wurundjeri Way and Dudley Street intersection, with all 17 beams being lifted into place as of the 22nd of October. Over the next few weeks of the closure, extra work will involve completing the concrete road deck, before reopening the intersection in early December.

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- CLG site tour took place on September 14, with members getting the chance to see the Maribyrnong River bridges up close.

East Zone Questions

Q: (CFR) It is frustrating when Footscray Road is closed and there are also night works on the West Gate Bridge, the compound effect needs to be considered. Adequate signage is required to help advise drivers.

A: (SC) Acknowledged this and will consider options in future.

Tunnel zone

- (CD) Tunnel zone engagement has had a big focus on the Williamstown Road inbound off ramp closure to remove the green gantry crane, with notifications going out to residents for what type of works will be taking place. Ventilation structure pop ups have been positive, with one remaining pop up at Footscray Arts Centre on 24 October.
- The large green gantry crane will be dismantled at the southern inbound portal and is the reason behind the closure of the Williamstown Road inbound exit ramp. It is a complex piece of work, with the crane weighing over 500 tonnes, and there is a very limited amount of space to work in.
- There have been 7 cross passages completed. A ground freezing technique will be used for some cross passages, to ensure ground stability. This is a common technique in Europe. This involves the use of liquid nitrogen being pumped through copper pipes that are embedded in the ground. These pipes will be removed once this work has been completed.
- A major milestone in the tunnels with both road decks in the tunnels being complete. A total of 1534 planks were used in the inbound tunnel, and 2548 planks used in the outbound tunnel.
- Preparation is underway to install the large timber eel net structure that will sit above the inbound tunnel entrance.
- The outbound tunnel exit ventilation structure is currently sitting 30 metres high and works are progressing well.
- The northern portal is coming up at rapid speed and leaves a larger footprint as it needs to cover 6 lanes of traffic, 3 lanes heading into the tunnel and 3 lanes coming out. The freeway control centre that sits near it at Youell Street is part of these works and is also nearly constructed.
- There will be new business access for Youell Street and Lyons Street, with Youell Street becoming a cul-de-sac, and Lyons Street having new access in the ultimate arrangement.
- CLG members will have the opportunity to take a tour of the outbound tunnel in November.

Actions update

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

- No update, action to remain open

Action: CPBJH / TU to follow up an earlier than end 2023 reopening of Federation Trail between Millers Road and Fogarty Avenue

- No update, action to remain open
- **Q:** (IB) Is there a date for opening on this section of Federation Trail?

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- **A:** (SD) Once resurfacing of the Federation Trail between Millers Road and Little Boundary Road begins, the detour will require both the reopening of the Kororoit Creek Path and the section of Federation Trail between Millers Road and Fogarty Avenue. All parties are working towards an opening date.
- **Q:** (NH) What is the timing on Kororoit Creek Path opening?
- **A:** (CF) Unable to be opened until Federation Trail from Millers Road to Fogarty Avenue is opened. There is still some work to be done there with Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) infrastructure going in.

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

- (CF) Graffiti program ongoing since the last meeting, repainting a lot of structures. We are getting to a lot of the areas that don't require a major traffic program.
- **Q:** (KR) Will the panels have anti-graffiti coating?
- **A:** (CF) Yes, from ground level up to 3 metres in height, all panels across the project will have anti-graffiti coating. This includes the noise walls, and this is working well.

Informal Actions

- **Q:** (GM) Can we please receive an update on what the future plans for the section of Millers Road between the West Gate Freeway and Geelong Road is going to look like in the future? Was raised at the last meeting and this is an important corridor for future residential and infrastructure needs.
- **A:** (LE) This will be a matter for Dept of Transport and Planning, so we will take that up with them and report back to the West area members.

Break (6:35PM)

Member questions and comments

Comments

- (LS) A meeting has been arranged between City of Melbourne and the CityLink maintenance team about the Moonee Ponds Creek trail and the flooding situation occurring there.
- (GB) Muir Street pedestrian bridge, coming down the ramp there are panels that are perforated, and it makes it was hard to see pedestrians coming from the path, this has now been fixed which is a good result.
- (GB) On Footscray Road through Docklands, numbers were up 10% on Ride 2 Work day, with over 2000 riders and that number expected to increase heading into Summer.
- (GM) Thank you for organising trip out to the Maribyrnong River Bridges, was great to go out there.
- (GM) Thank you for reacting to the Millers Road graffiti incident quickly.

Questions

- **Q:** (IL) Will the left-hand dedicated lane on Williamstown Road always be in place? The issue is that cars trying to go straight are getting caught up with those who are trying to turn onto the freeway.

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- **A:** (CF) The ultimate design has a dedicated left hand turn lane, which starts up at Thomas Street. The whole intersection is not in the final arrangement, and it is acknowledged that this is impacting traffic flow at the moment. Will take feedback to traffic teams.
- (SD) Need to see how the whole intersection works once it is up and running. Will look at sharing traffic modelling for members.
- **Q:** (IE) Planting around western corridor and weeding, can something be done? Is particularly bad around the Donald McLean reserve and the West Gate golf club.
- **A:** (CF) There's still works taking place in this section. Landscaping and site clean-up will occur once works have been completed.
- **Q:** (PG) What is the project completion date, when will it be in use and operational?
- **A:** (LE) Public date is November 2025.
- **Q:** (GB) Short notice is being given on Footscray Road shared path closures, especially before a major event like Ride 2 Work day. Was that taken into consideration before closing Footscray Road path as this could have impacted this major event?
- **A:** (SD) Will take on that feedback for future closures.
- **Q:** (GB) Temporary signals at Dock Link Road, there is a button that says, 'Press button for green', what is this? Cyclists are not using this button.
- **A:** (LE) Not sure on the button but Victoria Police have had a lot of presence at Footscray Road, observing the Dock Link Road intersection, making sure that both cyclists and motorists are doing the right thing.
- (LS) Meetings with port and freight services have been taking place, taken on feedback from their experiences at Footscray Road, and trying to change truck behaviour in the area.
- **Q:** (GB) Cars are trying to turn into Mackenzie Road, both heading citybound and outbound, have you noticed this?
- **A:** (CF) Haven't noticed cars doing that, will keep a close eye on that.
- **Q:** (BB) Primula Avenue had surveyors out there looking at the intersection, was this related to WGTP?
- **A:** (CF) Not sure, but there are some more noise wall sections going in under the power lines. Surveyors were possibly out there looking at those panel spots. The cladding in the area has also been finished.
- **Q:** (PT) There is no information on bus disruptions on the website, can this be included? I note that train disruptions are listed.
- **A:** (DM) We will speak to our digital team, the reason for train disruptions being on the website was due to Dynon Road works which heavily impacted train lines.
- **Q:** (PT) Will there be future open days and partnerships as part of the outreach program?
- **A:** (DM) West Gate Tunnel Project is keen to be involved with multiple events over the next few months to help inform the community around major works, especially in the lead up to the summer campaign. If anyone has suggestions or ideas of events, please let us know.
- (LS) There will be more opportunities for community activations when major milestones are hit, and pieces of infrastructure are complete and wrapped up. This will all tie in with outreach events and community activations.

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- **Q:** (AH) With the increase of bike patrons on Ride 2 Work day, is it because bike tracks are better or because cycling is easier than taking cars?
- **A:** (GB) Hard to know based off one day, people are going back to work in the CBD and that has helped drive numbers up.

- **Q:** (GM) What is the status of the grants program, when will next round be announced?
- **A:** (LE) We are hoping for an announcement soon, but date is not fixed. Also to note that since our last meeting we now have a new Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Hon Danny Pearson.

Meeting close (7:30PM)

- (KJ) Closed the meeting by thanking members in person and online.
- (KJ) Confirmed the next meeting is in six weeks' time and will be the last for 2023 on Thursday 30 November 2023.