

Minutes

Subject: October Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 30 November 2023

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Location: WGTP Information Centre

Apologies: Melanie Ryan, Eloise McGurn, Steve Wilson, Adam Bright, Melissa Merrett, Samantha Choudhury, Adrian Havryluk, Claude Manno, Adrian Ashford, Fran Araneda, Marlon De Leon

Attendees

Chair	Group/Association Members
(KJ) Kim Jordan	(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	MTIA Representatives
(CF) Con Frescos, Yarraville	(SDR) Shane D'Rozario, West Gate Tunnel Project, Major Transport Infrastructure Authority (WGTP MTIA)
(FS) Ferdinand Saliba, Deer Park	(LE) Liz Evans, WGTP MTIA
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	(DM) Douglas Morris, WGTP MTIA
(PT) Pradeep Tiwari, Footscray	(CA) Cyrus Alorro, WGTP MTIA
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(HT) Harley Thomas, WGTP MTIA
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	(ES) Ebru Saglam, WGTP MTIA
(PG) Peter Gerrand, North and West Melbourne	(EA) Emily Alvis, WGTP MTIA
(SS) Senthill Sundaram, Point Cook	(AS) Ashleigh Simpson, WGTP MTIA
Council Members	Department of Transport and Planning Representatives
(MB) Melissa Best, Maribyrnong City Council	(LB) Laura Bos, Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	(CP) Chris Pirpiris, DTP
(EM) Eloise McGurn, City of Melbourne	Transurban Representatives
	(LST) Lachlan Sturt, Transurban
	Joint Venture Representatives
	(CD) Christian Dolezal, CPBJH JV
	(LS) Lee Szalnowski, CPBJH JV
	(MS) Mladen Stojanovic, CPBJH JV
	(TS) Tim Spawton, CPBJH JV
	(MU) Mario Urban, 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
7.50pm	7	Meeting end	Chair

Introduction

- (KJ) Gave an Acknowledgement of Country.
- Welcomed attendees in person and online and stated apologies for the night. Introduced representatives from the Department of Transport and Planning, Laura Bos and Chris Pirpiris, who will be giving an update on West Gate Bridge works over the Summer.
- Also welcomed Emily Alvis from MTIA who will be providing an update on the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund grants and partnerships.

WGTP MTIA update

Grants and Partnerships

- (EA) At the start of November, \$1.6 million has been awarded to 49 community groups across the inner west. Active community grants were also introduced as part of the latest round of funding, an initiative that aims to support incorporated not for profit grassroots organisations such as sport clubs, scouts, and girl guides.
- Significant upgrades are being made to the Williamstown Jetty, with a complete refurbishment underway and set to open soon for community members to utilise.
- Overall, there have been nine partnerships awarded worth over \$900,000, and 20 minor facility upgrades worth almost \$600,000.
- There will be a final round of grants and partnerships in early 2024.

Community Outreach

- (DM) Provided an update on community outreach pop ups and events throughout November, noting that there are more to come in the lead up to the Christmas break.
- WGTP MTIA targeted multiple areas across the inner west, heading down to Docklands for a 'Swapping Seat' activation held by Bicycle Network and the Department of Transport, as well as heading down to the Yarraville Village Farmers Market and the Festival of Lights – Diwali at Footscray Park.
- Thank you to Pradeep who helped facilitate our presence at the Diwali event.

Recent Media

- (LE) Spoke to recent positive media stories surrounding the project. Recent achievements of the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund were highlighted, alongside beam lifts at Footscray Road and the Premier's visit to the southern outbound portal site.
- LE also acknowledged the recent story regarding graffiti across the project noting that the project teams have begun removing graffiti where possible.
- An image of the tunnel's cross section went viral on Facebook. The image has been shared across the world and reached nearly six million users, with over 200,000 engagements.

West Gate Bridge works – Department of Transport and Planning

- (LB) As part of annual maintenance works on the West Gate Bridge, three citybound lanes on the West Gate Bridge will be closed from 9:00pm Tuesday 26 December to 6:00am on Thursday 4 January.
- With only two citybound lanes open, delays of up to 30 minutes are expected – drivers should plan their journey, follow detour signs, and allow plenty of extra travel time.

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- DTP are working with freight in using the bridge at different times, outside of peak, so that traffic can flow better and be spread out over the day. DTP are also working to ensure truck behaviour is maintained and truck drivers are aware of curfews.
- Q: (GY) Have you engaged with Victorian Transport Association or National Heavy Vehicle Regulator about these works and trucks observing the curfews already in place on key routes in the inner west?
- A: Both are aware of these works but unsure whether NHVR will have an increased presence in the inner west during the works. DTP will follow up with GY offline.

Construction Update

West Zone

- (MU) Provided an update on engagement activity in the west zone, noting that there is a focus on proactive engagement including door knocks. Engagement around works happening along the railway corridor for the Hall Street Shared User Path has been a priority. Businesses along Williamstown Road have been engaged throughout the ongoing works in the area, and further pop ups are being planned to address the upcoming summer campaign disruptions.
- (LS) The main focus of works at the Hyde Street ramps has involved the installation of further green balustrading, noise walls, metal and painting works taking place, with the ramps continuing to take shape and look like a finished product. Concrete works have also been completed for the bridge across Stony Creek.
- At Donald McLean Reserve, most of the noise walls have been installed, with further noise walls to be installed in the next few weeks. Landscaping works will go into 2024, with Thomas Street bridge works also to take place early next year.
- Major works ~~at~~ continue at Williamstown Road, laying the final layer of asphalt at the interchange. While bad weather has caused minor delays, the northbound and southbound lanes will be completed shortly at which time focus will switch to the ramps. This program of work is due to finish mid-December.
- The Hall Street shared use path has had 50% of concreting complete, with barriers to be removed by the end of the year. The installation of a new kerb is still to come.
- At the West Gate Freeway/M80 interchange 14 out of 16 of the orange feature lighting poles are installed, with the final poles to be installed before Christmas. Two metre luminaires will be placed on the ends of each pole and the lights will be switched on at the end of the project. Replanting around the area will commence soon.
- At the Kororoit Creek Road exit important works have taken place to move gas lines to complete construction. Work can now begin in restoring the Princes Freeway outbound to its former arrangement.
- The West Gate Freeway will have a major asphaltting campaign over the summer period, which will involve lane closures between Millers Road and the M80 interchange between January and March, and the closure of the M80 Ring Road Greensborough bound ramp for several weeks.
- There will be further overnight freeway closures between Williamstown Road and the M80 Ring Road for gantry installations.
- The Project was contacted by the police after the graffiti story ran in the Herald Sun, and the team are working with them to assist enquires. More crews are being trained to remove the graffiti.

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West Zone questions

- **Q:** (IE) Is the temporary fence behind Donald Mclean Reserve staying? Who maintains the landscaping in that area once works are complete?
- **A:** (LS) I will need to look at the plans, but the maintenance responsibility will be with Transurban if it's in the freeway corridor.

- **Q:** (GM) Where are we at with Kororoit Creek path and Federation Trail?
- **A:** (LS) Still work to be done with lighting, all parties are working towards an opening where the paths don't have to continually be shut on and off again.

- **Q:** (GY) The community around the Williamstown Road interchange have expressed concern with horns being used during night works – can you explain why this is occurring?
- **A:** (LS) Beepers are needed for workers as it is very close quarters work, will take feedback onboard but some noise is to be expected in the area.

- **Q:** (GY) Trucks are still going down Fogarty Avenue even though bans are in place, what is happening there?
- **A:** (LS) Will pass on feedback to traffic teams, we don't want further issues occurring for that area.

East Zone

- (MU) East Zone engagement has been extremely busy, having engaged with various businesses and residents in the Docklands and West Melbourne areas before the closure of the Wurundjeri Way and Dudley Street intersection. There is further engagement to be done for January works in the area. Pop ups will be occurring around District Docklands, Dynon Road
- (MS) All steel girders have been installed for the elevated road above Footscray Road, and Footscray Road has returned to its former traffic arrangement. Industrial action at the Port of Melbourne has been impacting traffic and the walking and cycling path in the area.
- (SD) The Footscray Road SUP will be shut until at least 11 December due to this industrial action.
- (MS) The new SUP bridge above Footscray Road near Waterfront Way has work set to begin in line with the January campaign of Wurundjeri Way, with the first pylons to arrive in a few weeks' time.
- Steel girders have been installed on both sides of CityLink, in preparation for a final girder to be installed over the road. This piece of work will involve a weekend closure of CityLink between Footscray Road and Dynon Road from 8 to 10 December.
- At the Maribyrnong River Bridges, the installation of precast units is taking place, with works continuing through to April next year.
- Dynon Road has nightly closures in place to lay new asphalt from the bridge through to Dryburgh Street, with one lane in each direction being maintained throughout the day. The Dynon Road walking and cycling path is set to reopen before the end of the year.
- The Wurundjeri Way and Dudley Street intersection has been reopened as of Thursday 30 November, having been closed since Sunday October 8. This closure allowed crews to install large bridge segments over the intersection. There will be further works on Wurundjeri Way beginning 12 January next year.

East Zone Questions

- **Q:** (GB) When will the new shared path bridge be in place at Moonee Ponds Creek?
- **A:** (MS) The bridgeworks are ongoing with major sections being placed around the 15th and 16th of December.
- **Q:** (GB) Will the path along the creek be shut during that lift?
- **A:** (MS) There will be closures only when the lift is happening.

Tunnel zone

- (CD) Engagement focus has shifted for the tunnels, with stakeholders surrounding the northern portal site being the primary focus. Works on the Harris Street path has a lot of business stakeholders involved, particularly along Harris Street and Cowper Street. Further works are set to be completed along Lyons Street and Youell Street, with businesses in the area being engaged.
- The Northern Portal works will be complete by the end of 2024, with the freeway control centre, Harris Street path and ventilation structure all installed.
- Harris Street path works will begin in January 2024., This will involve different construction set ups and closures along Harris Street. The project will work with local council to coordinate with their works on Cowper Street.
- Within the tunnels, 10 out of 21 cross passages have been completed. There are 9 Egress Out and Under passages to be built in areas where the longer tunnel does not run adjacent to another tunnel.
- At the southern outbound portal, the encasement of the TBM cutterhead will occur around the middle of next year.
- The ventilation structure at the southern portal is progressing well and will reach 50m in height by mid-2024. The northern portal is a much wider ventilation structure, catering for 6 lanes of traffic, as opposed to only 3 lanes at the southern portal site and as such works for this portal will continue through the whole of next year.
- Thank you to the CLG members who came down on the tunnel tour last Monday 20th November, there is still a lot of work to still take place in the tunnels and it was good for members to see it firsthand.

Actions update

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

- (TS) Total number of trees for areas across the project can be made available to people at request. IFC (Issued for construction) is imminent for offset replanting package and planting will commence around April next year.
- **Q:** (IE) How many trees across the project will be replanted?
- **A:** (TS) 26,000 trees across the project as part of the offset replanting, which includes both mature and new trees, shrubs, and plants.

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

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- No update, all parties working towards a solution
- Action will be reworded reflect as an ongoing action.

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

- Update provided by LS in the West Zone update

Break (6:45PM)

Member questions and comments

Comments

- (KR) Would appreciate another update on the progress of works at Kororoit Creek Road at the first meeting next year.
- (GM) The graffiti on Williamstown Road northside is particularly noticeable. It seems to have a different shading once removed compared to other graffiti in the area.
- (GY) Please remind Project truck drivers of curfew through Somerville Road.
- (BB) Glad to see the cladding has been fixed at Primula Avenue.
- (IB) The Open Space Funding agreement funding given to Hobsons Bay City Council by WGTP has now been fully utilised on community projects such as Crofts Reserve, three Brooklyn reserves and Donald McLean Reserve upgrades.
- (BB) There should be greater consideration by the State Government and private enterprises in the future for utilising rail to transport containers rather than trucks.

Questions

- **Q:** (AB) Are we on track for completion to open the Williamstown Road on ramp by end of year?
- **A:** (LS) Aim is to get the asphalt work finished and ultimate line marking done by the end of the year so the ramp can be fully operational by Christmas.
- **Q:** (IE) Is there modelling to mitigate future issues where accidents occur along the West Gate Freeway, noting the recent traffic impacts that have occurred?
- **A:** (SD) The project will help ease congestion by providing an alternative to the West Gate Bridge for those in the west. Networks aren't designed nor can cope with every possible incident that can occur on any given day or time. The incident that occurred last Friday 24th November was unique and never seen before. We will have our traffic experts address this group in the new year.
- (LST) Happy to invite members along to the CityLink control room, operated by Transurban, to showcase how traffic management works in a real time setting.
- **Q:** (GB) The Hopkins Street and Dynon Road intersection is very dangerous for cyclists at the moment, with cyclists using this route as an alternative to Footscray Road. When can we expect the Footscray Road SUP to reopen?
- **A:** (SD) Meeting with the Department of Transport and Planning shortly, will pass on that feedback to them. Footscray Road returning to a larger traffic arrangement for vehicles should help motorists in the area not having to travel down Dynon Road as much.

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(LE) There is police presence in the area, both highway patrol and bicycle patrol units.

- **Q:** (FS) When will the section of the Federation Trail that travels underneath the M80 at Pipe Road reopen?
- **A:** (LS) Will follow up.

- **Q:** (GY) Can we please also get additional signage up for Millers Road southbound left-hand lane, reminding cars to merge into the right-hand lane?
- **A:** (LS) Can investigate the enquiry but noted that project signage is in its ultimate configuration. There are two 'Left Lane must turn left' signs installed at the end of Beevers Street and Clematis Avenue to remind drivers.

- **Q:** (IE) Will there be a community fund or legacy fund beyond the length of the project?
- **A:** (LE) WGNF has a new round next year, there's still many of the \$10M West Gate Neighbourhood Fund projects that need to be completed, and many will have a long-term legacy and investment for the inner west.
- (LST) Transurban also has its own community fund that gives out to non for profits, and that opportunity will be there for the inner west.

Meeting close (7:50PM)

- (KJ) Closed the meeting by thanking members in person and online and wishing everyone a safe festive season.
- (KJ) Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place next year on Thursday February 8, and that invites for the remainder of 2024 will be sent out in January.

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