

# Minutes

**Subject:** October Community Liaison Group Meeting

**Date:** Thursday 17 October 2024 **Time:** 5:30pm-7:30pm

**Location:** WGTP Information Centre

**Apologies:** Peter Gerrand, Adam Bright, Pradeep Tiwari, Senthill Sundaram, Marlon De Leon, Adrian Ashford, Steve Wilson, Con Frescos, Fran Araneda, Eloise McGurn, Garry Brennan, Harley Thomas, Ebru Saglam, Marcus Fosterling

## Attendees

Chair	MTIA Representatives
(KJ) Kim Jordan	(SD) Shane D'Rozario, Director Operations, Major Road Projects Victoria, Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (MRPV VIDA)
Community Members	(LE) Liz Evans, Deputy Director Engagement, MRPV VIDA
(AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville	(DM) Douglas Morris, Manager Community Relations, MRPV VIDA
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	(JT) Jordana Thornton, Engagement Coordinator
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	Transurban Representatives
(FS) Ferdinand Saliba, Deer Park	(JS) Jala Shehko, Community & Stakeholder Manager, Transurban
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(AV) Amanda Venda, Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead, Transurban
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	Joint Venture Representatives
Council Members	(CF) Charlie Fairbairn, Director – Civil & Surface Works, CPBJH JV
(MB) Melissa Best, Maribyrnong City Council	(CG) Christian Green, Stakeholder & Community Engagement Lead – East, CPBJH JV
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay Council	(AS) Amelia Swain, Communications & Stakeholder Relations Lead, CPBJH JV
(NH) Neil Hutchinson, City of Melbourne	Group/Association Members
(RM) Rumesh Mudiya Selage, City of Melbourne	(GM) Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek
	(GY) Glen Yates, Maribyrnong Truck Action Group (MTAG)

## Agenda Items

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.30pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair (Kim Jordan)
5.35 pm	2	Actions update	All
5.40 pm	3	WGTP MRPV update	WGTP MRPV (Liz Evans & Douglas Morris)
6.00 pm	4	Tunnels Update	CPBJH (Charlie Fairbairn & Amelia Swain)
6.15 pm	5	West Update	CPBJH Charlie Fairbairn & Christian Green)
6.30 pm	6	East Update	CPBJH Charlie Fairbairn & Christian Green)
6.45 pm	7	BREAK	All
6.55 pm	8	Member questions	CLG members
7:30pm	9	Thank you and close	Chair

## Introduction

- KJ provided an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed attendees, and mentioned apologies for the night.
- KJ Introduced Amelia Swain, representative from CPBJH.
- KJ introduced Rumesh Mudiya Selage, representative from City of Melbourne.
- KJ introduced Jala Shehko, representative from Transurban.

### Actions update

**Action ALL3:** CPBJH / TU to follow up on earliest reopening of Federation Trail between Millers Road and Fogarty Avenue.

- Action closed. Path reopened 5 October 2024.

**Action ALL4:** CPBJH/TU to follow up on opening the Kororoit Creek shared path as soon as possible.

- Action closed. Path reopened 8 October 2024.

### WGTP MRPV update –Liz Evans & Douglas Morris

#### **Grants & Partnerships (LE)**

- More than 45 new projects worth almost \$470,000 were announced in early October through the additional round of the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund grants.
- The fund has now allocated \$10 million to support more than 260 community projects in the inner west
- 150 projects have now been completed and have delivered a community benefit.

#### **Kororoit Creek Media Event (LE)**

- Project participants and community members participated in a photo opportunity to open the new section of the Kororoit Creek Trail on 8 October 2024.
- A community event will be held early November to celebrate the opening of the new section of the Kororoit Creek Trail with further information to be advised to members and the community.

#### **Outreach (DM)**

- WGTP MRPV attended six regional engagement sessions in Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo shopping centres. The team spoke with over 550 people, educating regional communities on current and upcoming works and benefits of the project to their area.
- The engagement team also ventured out to the Royal Melbourne Show for 11 days speaking with over 15,000 people. Other recently attended outreach events include Around the Bay, Ride to Work, Royal Geelong Show, Boat Show and Queensberry Cup.

#### **Completions (LE)**

As the project heads into the final 12 months of construction, we are moving into a new phase of planning for completions.

- **More than just a road** – This project is delivering so much more than just a tunnel with new journey options, direct connections to the Port of Melbourne, new cycling infrastructure, a widened West Gate Freeway, truck bans on 6 arterial roads in the inner west.
- **Our destination** - We are currently working through how to educate all the different stakeholders impacted by the project such as the freight industry, active transport users, CALD community by getting out in the community and building awareness. Engagement with some of these stakeholders is already underway including with the freight industry. Our aim is to support all drivers, pedestrians and cyclists to safely navigate the changed road network and to adapt their journey from day 1 with confidence.
- **Preparation, Education, Celebration** – Referring to a 3-step strategy we have in place for completions. Currently in the preparation phase, we are in a strategy development phase focussing on how we best educate stakeholders about day 1 opening. From 6 months prior to project opening, we will begin the education phase, where our narrative will shift to focussing on how to use the tunnel, assets and other changes to the road network such as truck bans. From 1 month prior to opening, we will shift into celebration phase, where we will be saying thank you to the community who have been impacted along the journey through various celebration events.

(JS) provided the following information:

- **User education:** Provided an overview of the user education approach, including the online journey tool to help users navigate new/upgraded roads and paths, and hard copy guides. Noted that there would also be a focus on tolling education —starting now for freight and next year for the broader public.
- **Freight engagement:** Noted engagement with the freight industry was crucial for the project's success on day one and therefore engagement with heavy vehicle operators will begin in November, ahead of other stakeholders and broader public next year - 6 months out from opening. Freight Victoria and DTP would support this effort, particularly around truck restrictions.
- **Walking and cycling paths:** We are working towards opening some of the new paths earlier than late 2025. Paths are being assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- **(SDR)** There are a range of considerations being made to ensure that paths open only when it is safe for the public to use them.

### Questions

**Q: (IE)** What will completions look like? Will we go straight from construction to opening? Or will there be a break between construction finishing and the project opening.

**A: (JS/LE/CF)** The three zones of project are heavily interconnected and therefore the new connections to the tunnels, ramps to and from the Port, and the elevated roadway must all open at the same time. On the West Gate Freeway, roadworks west of Millers Road is essentially complete with the electronic signage and connections still to come. East of Millers Road there is more work to do on the road surfacing and at the tunnel portal locations. Noted there will also be maintenance requirements to ensure the safety and upkeep of the roads once they have been opened.

**Q: (NH)** When will the tolling strategy start to roll out?

**A: (JS)** There will be a significant education campaign, which will include information of tolling for drivers ahead of opening in late 2025. Tolling prices are available on Transurban's website now, and noted there will be updated pricing closer to opening to reflect CPI changes.

**A: (DM)** Key completions strategies, including understanding tolls, will be covered at future meetings.

### Construction Update

#### Tunnel zone – Amelia Swain & Charlie Fairbairn

##### Community engagement update (AS)

- Localised impacts to businesses with works along Harris Street and new shared path bridge over Whitehall Street. Due to community reports, CPBJH has been monitoring workers parking to ensure they are using site parking.
- CPBJH met with Seddon Cricket Club to discuss the final design of the shared path. Local check ins with businesses including those on 107-109 Whitehall Street and Kindred Studios.
- CPBJH provided additional signage informing public how to access Yarraville Gardens and the clubs/businesses on Harris Street and Cowper Street

##### Tunnel zone construction update (CF)

- **Whitehall Street Walking and Cycling path** –The new shared user path bridge over Whitehall Street has been installed which will safely connect Harris Street to the northern portal site. There are only two bridge trusses left to be installed across the entire project, and they for the shared path bridge at Williamstown Road.
- **Portal Timber Nets installation** – The timber net structure and framework for the external cladding of the ventilation structure on the West Gate Freeway are ready to be installed. Test lifts have been completed and the structures are at the site.
- **Tunnel Cross Passages** – There are a number of passages that have been built for emergency pedestrian access between tunnels. Concrete works are done and signage and painting is being finished.
- There is still a lot of work to do on the mechanical and electrical installations within the tunnels.

#### West zone – Christian Green & Charlie Fairbairn

##### Community engagement update (CG)

- Engagement with businesses and stakeholders impacted by Williamstown Road citybound exit ramp closure occurred prior to and during the works. Updates to signage along the West Gate Freeway has been addressed and resolved.
- Additional door knocks on properties about landscaping works have taken place. A pop up at Shell service station advised about 100 stakeholders of Williamstown Road citybound exit closure.

### **West zone construction update (CF)**

- **Kororoit Creek Trail** – The walking and cycling path between GJ Hosken Reserve and the connection to Federation Trail on the northern side of the Freeway opened to the public on 8 October 2024.
- **Federation Trail** – The path from Millers Road to Fogarty Avenue reopened on 5 October 2024.
- The section of Federation Trail from Millers Road to Old Geelong Road is currently closed to the public to be reconstructed and resurfaced. The path is due to reopen in December 2024.
- CPBJH is still maintaining this area by cleaning graffiti, repairing vandalism and spraying weeds.
- **Williamstown Road spring campaign works** - Works at the Williamstown Road inbound exit ramp are progressing to install the final two bridge trusses to connect the shared path along Fogarty Avenue to the new Hyde Street ramp shared path. The bridgeworks are set to finish 17 November 2024.
- **Landscaping** – Landscaping is occurring across both the west and east zones of the project with planting season coming to an end shortly as the weather begins to warm up.

### **East zone – Christian Green & Charlie Fairbairn**

#### **Community engagement update (CG)**

- Community interest in when the veloway will be open to the public, the project has stated end of 2025.
- Stakeholder and business engagement completed on Footscray Road for the recent traffic switch closing the eastbound lanes.

#### **East zone construction update (CF)**

- **The orange pole feature lighting at the new connection onto the West Gate Tunnel elevated road.** Installation is at 80% completion. The lights are the highest point across the Project at 26m above sea level.
- **Maribyrnong River Bridges cladding installation** – the coloured eel skin inspired panels are on site ready to be installed in the next week or two.
- **Footscray Road** - Traffic has now moved back to three newly resurfaced westbound lanes on Footscray Road. While veloway works continue, the eastbound lanes are closed until 31 October.
- **Bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek** - The veloway continuation over Moonee Ponds Creek is well progressed with steel and framing work completed, cladding works will commence
- **Veloway** – With 195 segments in total, there have been 144 panels installed so far to construct the cyclist veloway above Footscray Road.

#### **Break (6:30PM)**

#### **Graffiti update:**

#### **September - October 2024**

##### **Throughout September:**

- Graffiti removal from noise wall and walking and cycling path approach at Fogarty Avenue.

##### **Late September:**

- Removal of Graffiti on the Footscray shared walking and cycling path before CityLink inbound.
- Fogarty Avenue emergency access entrance (opposite Yarraville Soccer Club).

##### **September and early October:**

- Kororoit Creek shared walking and cycling path under Geelong Road and West Gate Freeway.

## Member questions and comments

### Comments

- (MB) Commented that Maribyrnong City Council are keen to support education to community by sharing information on project assets like the veloway and walking & cycling paths.
- (GY) asked about communicating road opening information in languages other than English and whether the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator will be updating their mapping. LE replied that both will be done.
- (MB) Stated Google and Apple Maps being updated when the Project opens is very important with some recent issues being experienced with local roads not updated within the Maribyrnong City Council area.
- (DR) Following recent works, the M80 ramps are so much better, however visibility of the signage on approach to the West Gate Freeway from the M80 is too late. There needs to be a sign further north on the M80 to tell people to be in the left hand lane to access Millers Road.
- (IE) Noted confusion with the M80/WGF signage which has West Gate Freeway exits and the other said West Gate Freeway Tunnel.
- (DR) Noticed the framework construction (called a diagrid) on at the Northern Portal and commented on the huge size. As the scaffolding is starting to come down, this will look incredible.
- (FS) Congratulations to all project parties in the opening of Kororoit Creek Trail, it looks fantastic. The landscaping looks great.
- (KR) The resurfacing of the Federation Trail is starting to look very good (from a distance).
- (GY) As a result of the Williamstown Road citybound exit closure, there have been more trucks using local roads around Yarraville. The drivers go wherever google/apple maps sends them resulting in some trucks breaking the road rules along Francis Street and Somerville Road.
- (NH) Keen to see more information around toll costs along the project.
- (IB) Fantastic news about the walking and cycling paths being opened to the public.
- (GM) Was a pleasure to attend the official opening event of the Kororoit Creek Trail with project parties and MP Williamstown Melissa Horne. Looking forward to the opening celebration event in November.
- (LE) Stated a thank you to Gary Brennan for all his help in supporting communications about the Project to the bicycle community and networks.

### Questions

- **Q:** (IE) Signage is poor on the West Gate Freeway when you are coming from the M80 and need to decide to get into express lanes or exit lanes. There is not enough time to make the decision and is confusing.
- **A:** (SDR) Signage is being reviewed across the project and there is still more permanent signage to be installed so we will take this feedback into consideration as part of this review.
- **Q:** (IE) There is a push within the Spotswood and South Kingsville community to claim the land back adjacent to the new open space on New Street.
- **A:** (LE) Asked for Ilona to send through more information so we can understand the area.
- **Q:** (FS) Asked a question about the Copenhagen style bike lanes on Hyde Street and will it be the final alignment?
- **A:** (SDR) No, it is only for the interim until further connections are made. The final alignment will provide bi-directional travel.
- **Q:** (GY) The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) has declared that PBS Level 3A's can access Williamstown Road heading south while the Williamstown citybound exit is closed. How will that be reined in after it reopens?
- **Q:** (GY) Clennett Hire/Coates/Leader/Baron etc. are continuously moving rental assets along Somerville Road during truck curfew. How can that be stopped?
- **Q:** (GY) The EES had two toll gantries on the West Gate Freeway and now there is only one potentially creating a go around to avoid the single toll point.
- **Q:** (GY) Where will the DTP enforcement cameras be located on the truck banned streets? When will they be installed?
- **A:** (GY's above questions were received in full following the meeting and will be taken on notice for response).

- **Q:** (GY) As per the EES, can the Project please confirm that the route mentioned for eastbound fuel tankers will stand after the project opens?
- **A:** Yes, it will.
- **Q:** (GY) Is there an exit strategy for CPBJH who currently occupy the Flower Market, considering there has been a recent announcement about future use of this site.
- **A:** CPBJH to follow up on this question.
- **Q:** (AB) How will local and arterial roads be maintained in the project corridor post project completion?
- **A:** (SDR) There are a few roads around the project that are in a maintenance contract with the Department of Transport and Planning and has triggers to when intervention levels are required. Further information will be provided on which roads.
- **Q:** (IB) Keen to see a tolling strategy for the project. Also keen to see a freight management strategy, how will we encourage trucks to use the new infrastructure. It is of interest to understand how trucks will be monitored from using other routes that avoid tolls. This may be a good presentation in future.
- **A:** (GM) At the Paringa Road and Millers Road intersection, the footpath is too close to the road outside Ultra Tune. Can the Project consider this and whether pedestrian fencing could be installed.
- **Q:** (GM) Noted that plants along the Kororoit Creek Trail are not looking like they will survive, let alone in another 2-3 years. Will plants be replaced as soon as they die rather than at the end of the two year maintenance period? Also noted rabbits are a big problem and the plant guards are not stopping them eating the growth.
- **A:** CPBJH to follow up about the plant maintenance.
- **Q:** (BB) At the corner of Millers Road and Primula Avenue a car hit part of a noise wall. Will this be repaired?
- **A:** (SDR) Yes, this will be repaired.

**Meeting close (7:40PM)**

- (KJ) Closed the meeting and thanked members.
- Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place on Thursday 28 November, which will be the last meeting of 2024.