

22 March 2024



Meeting Minutes

Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	22/03/2024	Time	10:00am - 12:00pm
Chair	Mike Marasco	Meeting no.	2 of 2024
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Amy Upton Stokes

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Mike Marasco (MM)	Independent Chair	Leah McGuinness (LM)	Whitehorse City Council
Joe Carbone (JC)	Community Representative	Andrew Mangan (AM)	Manningham City Council
Ros Magee (RM)	Community Representative	Alexander Law (AL)	Community Representative
Bruce Plain (BP)	Community Representative	Glennys Jones (GJ)	Community Representative
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council	Frank Freschi (FF)	Community Representative
Otto Sargent (OS)	Community Representative	John van Delft (JvD)	Community Representative
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Laing O'Rourke, Senior Community Relations Manager	Sam Doyle (SD)	NELP, Manager, Interface Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
Tom McCann (TMc)	Spark, Project Manager	Hamid Peimany (HP)	Spark, Communications and Community Engagement Advisor
Michael Hobbs (MH)	NELP, Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Communications - South	Mia McMahon (MMc)	Spark, Manager Community Engagement

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Shaun Leane MP	Member of Parliament	Judith Voce (JV)	Community Representative
Nic Morton (NMo)	NELP, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor	Nicholas Moore (NM)	Community Representative
Connor Curtin (CC)	Manningham City Council Project Officer	Elizabeth Patena (EP)	NELP, Acting Community Partnerships Manager

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged apologies Confirmed previous meeting minutes read and adopted MM brought up outstanding matter, the pedestrian safety audit on Bulleen Rd and wayfinding signage. <p>MMc: We've done two different audits now. We've done a review of the Manningham area. There's been some signs that have fallen down and needed some updates for timing and dates. There's a few we've actioned in Bulleen Rd around Manningham Hotel and there's some more signage going in too. GJ: I received the detour map that got sent out and it's not clear. When I got to the point where the detour actually started it seemed that it actually hadn't started at that point yet. We need some corflutes with actual maps and also a QR code that provides an update for cyclists on how to get through.</p> <p>MM raised on JV's behalf the issue of fencing at Freeway Golf.</p> <p>JL: Clare and I walked it with our counterparts and we'll take it back and have a look out our alignment and make sure we're correct with our boundaries and also see what we can do to help with Freeway Golf machinery that uses the maintenance pathway in that area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions: MMc to action another audit and explore updated signage before next meeting.
Rob Harper (RH)	<p>Presentation covering NELP Sustainability</p> <p>Where is the main steel coming from and what percentage is recycled steel? RH: We can advise after the meeting the exact figure for recycled steel but in the first week of February just under 74 percent was recycled specifically. And that is coming Laverton, from Infrabuild and what is not coming from Laverton is coming from Infrabuild facilities in South Australia.</p> <p>RM: And the new steel, is that Chinese steel? RH: I have not seen anything to suggest that there is any Chinese steel that is being used yet. For steel that falls outside of Victoria and Australia the process is that our delivery partners tell us why it's not coming from Victoria or Australia.</p> <p>RM: and the other question is industry standard rating tools that are being used. The Green Building Council tools being used RH: The Environmental Steel Charter was developed with the Green Building Council of Australia and is the default tool that is used for the Infrastructure Sustainability Council and also for Green Star. The tool that has superseded it is a much more comprehensive tool that is the Sustainable Steel Charter of Australia and that has also been developed with the Green Building Council of Australia so that is equally relevant to the Infrastructure Sustainability Council and for Green Star.</p> <p>RM: We had a presentation some time ago about the control buildings and the target was 6 star Green Star. Is that still valid? RH: Currently I believe it's a 5 Star Green Star rating for the motorway control centre. That only applies to one building and the reason for that is because a green star is only applicable to permanently inhabited buildings. Majority of buildings along North East Link are support buildings such as garages and medical facilities. The difference between getting 5 and 6 stars on a project like this is significant, but they are only going to fall short of 6 by a couple of points.</p> <p>JC: To what degree is NELP sharing its sustainability impacts and achievements more broadly in government circles given the huge pipeline of capital works happening nationally? RH: There are many forums within MTIA to share sustainability information and make sure that lessons are shared across big build projects and the Victorian and federal government. It's being covered in the annual sustainability report. AL: To add onto Rob's point you do see other projects hopping on now on how to do sustainability</p>
Mia McMahon (MMc)	<p>Presenting on construction, upcoming works and what we've been hearing from the community. Also, an update on the Manningham Diversion and an update about engagement of the tunnel alignment in Watsonia as well as tunnelling updates.</p>

Owner	Action
Tom McCann (TMc)	<p>FF: The area around Greenaway you have temporary lights. In the evening you shut off Bulleen Rd. On Tuesday night at 10:30 the traffic lights were blocked and I couldn't get past there. I thought it was only going to happen on weekends. I was there for 10 minutes, and nothing was happening. TMc: There are ongoing lanes closures on weekday nights to ensure we've created safe work zones, and occasionally road closures. The general principle is any full road closure are put through VicRoads and a detour is in place. What would typically happen is counterflow arrangement would be set up around 10:30pm. MMc confirmed there were lane closures along Bulleen Road, and given the end of Veneto's event, it likely coincided with set up time, causing a 10 min delay. RM: If that's the case it might be useful to warn people of when set ups are happening and how long it's going to take. MMc and TMc noted for feedback.</p>
	<p>JC: Given the weather we've been having, is the project where you thought it would be at this point? TMc: We have a target of the box being done by Easter. That's been our target since April last year. So more or less we're almost there. We have about 3 panels left to be done next week. FRP works have started, we've got to get tunnelling work commenced from southern end of our box, the target is to get that going from quarter 3 or 4 of this year.</p>
	<p>GJ: I just want to make an observation. I've seen solar panels being used on small work sites on regional freeways. Something that has been discussed early on in the project was the opportunity to use solar panels on buildings near the project. I've noticed an absence of solar panels being used. Seems like a lost opportunity. MH: Bulleen Park and Ride has solar panels.</p> <p>GJ: I thought it would be taken on from when it was raised at the last CLG and it seems like such a wasted opportunity when talking about sustainability. MM: Asked GJ if she could provide an example of what has been achieved on other sites. .MMc to take as action and discuss at next meeting.</p>
	<p>AL: In regard to your feedback, is social media being used or any other media to warn people about diversions. MMc: There's been a comprehensive comms and engagement process for the Manningham Rd diversion, including social media campaigns via Big Build that target several suburbs.</p>
	<p>FF: Were all 104 complaints to do with Bulleen Rd and the southern end? MMc: Yes this is all to do with the southern end, and the spike of complaints we've seen of the recent months have been to do with dust and utilities. MM: Spark to take action on to present at the next meeting summary of call centre, key trends and how we're working to improve them.</p>
	<p>RM: And of those complaints, how many do you think have been resolved? Are there ongoing ones that keep repeating? MMc: A pretty common complaint is increased dust around properties And what mitigations we're doing to reduce dust Really for us it's looking at how we can continue to identify ways within our worksite to mitigate dust, especially as the tunnelling aspect of the project is commencing.</p>
	<p>FF: It's good to see data is being collected. What's better is to make good use of that data to anticipate and recommend actions to reduce it and to learn from to reduce complaints from the community. SD: I can assure you the data exists, and it is being used for that explicit purpose.</p>
	<p>RM: Does the material state delay times? MMc: Yes, we do have a map to explain the closures and expected 25 minute delay MMc action to send following meeting.</p>
	<p>MM: I know Nathan at the bike shop on Bulleen Rd has got a small wall where he has collateral so any customers can see that information there. It might be worth trying to target other businesses who would be willing to do that. MMc: We have little pop-ups at Bulleen Plaza but it's a good suggestion to have more information at targeted shopping centres.</p>
	<p>OS: In Balwyn North we get Eastern Freeway information, but we don't get anything for North East Link. My family aren't aware of upcoming closures unless I tell them. We're connected to Bulleen Rd so I think having that information at Belle Vue shops would be good. MMc: That's a good suggestion, we do have a targeted distribution area of around 3000 people, but it is more</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>contained to to Bulleen and directly impacted residents and businesses. Usually, our Big Build campaigns cover the extended areas. We'll have a look at getting information into those shopping centres if feasible.</p> <p>RM: If you follow the level of information on social media it's pretty comprehensive. What I'm saying to my community down there is make sure you follow because you get it instantly on your phone and I know not everyone does that, but I think it's indicative of the level of communicative material. The issue is getting it to the people who can't or won't. OS: My family don't really use social media so construction updates are best. There's so much information coming through online now it's easy for it to get lost. You can put a letter up on the fridge and remember it.</p> <p>Tunnel alignment in Watsonia</p> <p>FF: What were they most concerned about? MMc: The most common enquiry was regarding vibration; what am I going to feel and what am I going to experience. In terms of vibration impacts, its dependent of the depth of the tunnel beneath you. If it's really deep, you might only feel something slight, but everyone's experience is different in terms of impact. That's where we can offer those property condition surveys and have that in place for their property before that work commences.</p> <p>AL: Have you done the one where they do the pre survey of the house? MMc: It's done by an independent company. That's in place before tunnelling commences and then they do a second one at the end so if there is in the small chance is damage in terms of cracks then we come back and rectify that.</p> <p>GJ: Are property owners required to sign non-disclosure agreements for the surveys? MMc: Not for property condition surveys, this is an independent process carried out by a third party</p> <p>FF: If there is damage, how does private house insurance factor into the rectification? MMc: We can take that question on notice and come back to you.</p> <p>RM: The acoustic sheds are a case of Glennys' suggestion of covering the roof with solar panels. That's a huge building, it will be there for a long time and it's a great sustainability initiative. People would ask the question why didn't they put solar on it? MMc: We'll take that on board and have a chat with the team.</p>
<p>Leanne Farrell (LF)</p>	<p>Presentation covering Environmental Audit</p> <p>RM: That data is a year old and what I'd like to see given to the community is what the current status is and what's happened in the last month. Because these are the questions, we've been getting asked and if we don't get the data or information, we can't assist in managing the process. I would really like to see current data. LF: There is a review and approvals process before we publish the reports. Reviews have taken longer than expected for a number of reasons, including a change in Minister during this period.</p> <p>RM: I get that, but it puts a funny edge to a community group being asked to represent the community and not having access to the current information. I'd like to state that very strongly too. MM: JW, Regarding the next environmental audit once it's published if you could send the link to everyone around the table, so we know when it's published and as soon as the next one's finished. NEL to action.</p> <p>AL: If I may recommend also, we've had 3 non-compliances and it's been 12 months since this report has been published, at least an update report on the non-conformances is critical, and same thing for areas of improvement. At least in the interim between reports being published if we can have updates to understand how you're addressing non-conformances and areas for improvement as in a project.. MM: Can I suggest Leanne, at the next meeting could you do what Alexander and Ross have suggested. NEL to action.</p>
<p>Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)</p>	<p>Presentation covering new Bulleen Road diversion between Carey and Eastern Freeway</p>

Owner	Action
Peter Kelly (PK)	<p>FF: Is it a strategy to rely on reducing traffic flow? PK: It's not a strategy its reality. If we kept traffic going through the existing alignment there would be massive closure all the time.</p> <p>RM: How many lanes are there through the dog leg? PK: Southbound on Bulleen Road, there's 1 left/straight turn lane at Thompson 's Road itself and a right/straight lane, then a right turn lane getting on to the bridge.</p> <p>FF: In terms of delays what does the modelling indicate that would contribute to. PK: For this particular route from memory it's about a minute. The one that takes the longest is from south to north. From north to south it's not as bad.</p> <p>FF: So this adding overall from somebody coming from the east doing? PK: It's around about a minute.</p> <p>RM: How long is this diversion in place? P: Around a year and a half.</p> <p>FF: Can you outline on this one where new traffic lights are going to be put in? PK: From what I can see, there will be the same signals at the intersection and there will be a signalised intersection at Freeway Golf.</p> <p>RM: So, there's no traffic control at the compound entries? PK: There will be priority control, left in left out. You won't be able to do a right turn in or out.</p> <p>OS: Is there a footpath along there? JL: No, that's when I was talking about the SUP that's going in front of the Manningham Club that will provide the pedestrian access well away from construction.</p> <p>FF: So where the ingress is for Freeway Golf Compound, you're putting lights there for your compound? JL: It's our exit only.</p> <p>FF: That animation is helpful. I think it would be good to accentuate lane numbers and travel times so people can make their own choices. JL: The good things for us in this space is there's no loss or change of access to businesses and schools in that area, Manningham Club, Dan Murphy's.</p> <p>RM: Would it be fair to say that one of the biggest issues would be the lights on the bridge? PK: Because we're taking out Bulleen Road and leaving that northern intersection it tends to work a lot better now. The southern one is the tricky one.</p> <p>CD: Is there going to be an animation for pedestrians and cyclists? JL: We can totally do one.</p> <p>FF: You're having construction trucks go on the freeway rather than on local roads. JL: Essentially, we'll be constructing as many access points as possible on the freeway. At Doncaster Road the entrance will be off Doncaster Road and exit on to the Eastern Freeway. At Koonung Creek Reserve entry and exit will be on the Eastern Freeway.</p> <p>OS: I've noticed something recently in the Leonis avenue area. The school zone seems to be cancelled out by signage. If you're heading north there's a 40 sign that's been there for a while and right after there's a 60-road works sign. JL: I'll take that back to the traffic team.</p> <p>OS: Could the timing for crossings near Leonis Avenue be relooked at as it's really slow? JL: I'll bring that back to the traffic team.</p> <p>GJ: When's the bus stop closing? MH: It's being relocated not closed.</p> <p>OS: Will the relocation be long-term? JL: There's a lot of construction in that area so it will be long-term.</p>

Owner	Action
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Alexander and Ross advise they would be apologies for the next meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting 3rd May 2024</p> <p>Thanked SCLG members and presenters for the and closed the meeting at 12:05pm.</p>

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
S6-2	FF to be provided details of access to Veneto Club once diversion complete	MMc	9 Feb 2024	Closed	The project will brief Veneto Club in a separate forum to address their individual concerns
S6-3	Outcome of Bulleen Road safety audit to be provided to SCLG members	MMc	9 Feb 2024	Closed	A summary report has been presented to the Veneto Club with further detail to come.
SC24 1-1	Has a pedestrian safety audit been completed on Bulleen Road? There is no wayfinding signage	MMc	22 March 2024	Open	MMc to confirm that clear wayfinding signage will be installed
SC24 2-1	Installation of detour corflutes and QR codes for cyclists and pedestrians to be investigated for the Bulleen Rd area.	MMc	03 May 2024	Open	MMc to take on board and update next meeting.
SC24 2-2	Issues with alignment of temporary fencing at Freeway Golf Course	JL	03 May 2024	Closed	JL took a site walk with CD and will investigate further what the issues are. CD Happy with outcome
SC24 2-3	A breakdown of complaints per category to be provided at the next meeting.	MMc	03 May 2024	Open	MMc to provide breakdown of the complaints at the next meeting
SC24 2-4	Updated map explaining closures to be sent around	MMc	03 May 2024	Closed	JW sent with minutes
SC24 2-5	Potential damage to properties and private house insurance re property condition surveys	MMc	03 May 2024	Open	MMc to clarify resolution methods between private house insurance and damage caused by project.
SC24 2-6	Environmental audit data to be sent out to group.	LF	03 May 2024	Closed	JW emailed link to members 22.03.24
SC24 2-7	Clearer detour maps of SUP diversions to be provided	JL	03 May 2024	Open	Clearer maps to be distributed to CLG members
SC24 2-8	Further information regarding environmental audit non conformance matters. Presentation on next report when released by Minister	NMo LF	03 May 2024	Open	
SC24 2-9	JL to advise how left turn into compound will be prevented	JL	03 May 2024	Open	
SC24 2-10	JL to provide detail of the SUP detours to GJ for her to share with bicycle network	JL	03 May 2024	Open	

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.	MHi to advise if this may be possible as part of the Freeways package
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 were put in place for the Bulleen Rd stage two closure be shown after these works	MH to advise once information is available
SC24 2-8	NMo	Interim update for Environmental audit.	NMo to arrange LF to present when info becomes available

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
2024	14 April 2023	Presentation on Motorway Control Centre	SM	Presentation to be given when information available
Q4	14 April 2023	MHi to present further information on managing the flood plain in Freeway package design	MHi	Presentation to be given when information available

Additional information