

31 July 2024



Meeting Minutes

Southern Business Liaison Group

Date	30/07/2024	Time	5:30pm - 6:45pm
Chair	Mike Marasco	Meeting no.	5 of 2024
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Nic Morton

Attendees

Attendees		Apologies	
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Mike Marasco (MM)	Independent Chair	Renato Marnich (RM)	NELP, Trader Engagement Specialist
Nic Morton (NM)	NELP, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor	Christine Gibbins (CG)	Manningham Council
Andrew McGlade (AM)	NELP, Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor	Soula Grouios (SG)	Arthurs Fish & Chips
Rob Harper (RH)	NELP, Manager, Sustainability	Andrea Lomdahl (AL)	Boroondara Council
Mathew Hill (MH)	NELP, Package Director	Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara Council
Tim Sligo (TS)	Executive Director, Heide Museum of Modern Art		
Paul McMorran (PM)	Bulleen Art and Garden		
Frank Freschi (FF)	Veneto Club		
Mia McMahan (MMc)	Spark, Manager Community Engagement		
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Spark, Senior Communications Advisor		
Mia Deans (MD)	Spark, Sustainability Coordinator		
Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)	Burke to Tram Alliance, Senior Communications		

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Attendees		Apologies	
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
	and Community Relations Manager		
Nathan McAvaney (NMc)	Topgear Cycles		
Cam Gardenia (CG)	Commercial Property Owner		
Alison Tobias (AT)	Alot of Good Stuff		

Actions – previous

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Update
SB25.1	Spark to provide information on traffic incidents in the Manningham area at the next SBLG	IZ	30/07/2024	CLOSED
SB25.2	Spark and NEL to update group on any additional Bridge and Templestowe Road intersection changes	IZ	30/07/2024	CLOSED
SB25.3	Spark to contact DTP about fixing drain cover on Templestowe Road	IZ	30/07/2024	CLOSED
SB25.4	BTA to provide information on number of accidents at Bulleen Road diverted intersection	JLe	30/07/2024	CLOSED
SB25.5	Spark and NEL to look into potential changes to carparking outside Bulleen Road traders	IZ, NM	30/07/2024	CLOSED
SB25.6	RM to discuss with CG on how to get the factsheet onto the Manningham newsletter	RM	30/07/2024	CLOSED
SB25.7	RM to update group on how to apply for the DJSIR Digital Jobs Program, as well as clear details on the pathway for mid-career Victorians that may find the program suitable	RM	10/09/24	OPEN

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Discussion
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged apologies Previous meeting minutes read and adopted Outstanding actions to be completed in the presentation
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ) Jamie Ledwidge (JL) Andrew McGlade (AM)	<p>Outstanding Actions</p> <p>SB25.1 IZ comments that Police investigate each traffic incident that occurs and what changes may need to be made to make the road safer. 20,000 vehicles use Manningham Road every day and only a handful of accidents have occurred since the new lanes opened. These accidents are usually because of driver behaviour and lack of familiarity with the changes. Spark have made changes in response to some of these incidents including the removal of a concrete block to widen turning lanes. The group comments that Police have been seen in the area monitoring driver behaviour</p> <p>SB25.2 IZ notes that travel times are continuing to improve in the area. Several applications for 'Keep Clear' zones have been rejected.</p> <p>SB25.3 IZ acknowledges that drain cover is still an issue but that progress is being made with Council to have this fixed</p> <p>SB25.4 JLe states that there have been 4 recorded incidents at the new section of Bulleen Road. These incidents were nose to tail accidents. FF mentions that one of these occasions involved a Veneto Club member who had her car written off</p> <p>SB25.5 IZ existing car parks will not be changed as part of the design, however road will be widened and traffic island will also be added which will help delineation of parked cars to Bulleen Road traffic. Road design is compliant with standards and considers road users, pedestrians, cyclists etc. Group would like to see the final road design around the Manningham Road intersection at the next meeting</p> <p>Action: Final Road design at Manningham Road intersection to be shown at next meeting</p> <p>SB25.6 AM updates that next newsletter will be out on 22 August and will include business support items. An update will be provided on this at next meeting.</p> <p>SB25.7 AM updates that RM is absent and an update will be provided at the next meeting</p>
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	<p>North East Link Construction Update</p> <p>Drone footage shown to the group covering Manningham, Bulleen and Trinity sites</p> <p>Photos of each site are also shown at ground level including underground sections of the cut and cover boxes where mined tunnelling will shortly commence</p> <p>Bridge Street d-wall works are explained, involving lane closures in September and October mainly during weekends and school holiday times. Up to 3 lanes will be closed during these times but Bridge Street will remain open</p> <p>Dates for these disruptions will be sent round to the group when finalised, along with materials to help traders inform their customers.</p> <p>Communications team will be out in the community explaining these disruptions and online channels will be used to spread the message more broadly.</p> <p>FF reiterates that people will need to allow extra time to travel through the area during these times.</p>

Owner	Discussion
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	<p>Trader Support Update</p> <p>Update shown as per presentation, including statistics on the various support options recently taken up by traders. These include vouchers, design and printing help, cleaning, workforce promotions, individual trader support packages, gawk screen signage and trees. This update demonstrates that there are a lot of support options available to suit trader needs.</p> <p>Spark have also been working with Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) with Marketing materials and tickets for their upcoming forum in August.</p> <p>Upcoming community events are also shown to the group</p>
Rob Harper (RH) Mia Deans (MD)	<p>Sustainability Update</p> <p>RH explains how the project's sustainability goals have been produced, which has resulted in 6 key objectives and 47 separate targets.</p> <p>NELP annual sustainability report is produced every year, which currently captures Early Works and NELP Central works for the 2023 calendar year. The next report will include North and South packages as well. In future, the report will also encapsulate East and West packages.</p> <p>The preparation of the report is taken very seriously and is reviewed and audited thoroughly to ensure all claims made are accurate. NELP encourages the public to scrutinise the report and is available here to read. https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/library/north-east-link/reports/sustainability-reports/2023-annual-sustainability-report</p> <p>RH explains a few examples of some areas the report covers including resource efficiency, climate change and managing urban heat. The project has been working well with Spark to make some significant achievements in these areas.</p> <p>MD goes into detail about a few case studies on the project that demonstrate how we are achieving our sustainability targets.</p> <p>Embodied carbon is one of these, that relates to reducing the materials needed for the infrastructure. An example of this is the reduction in scope for the Motorway Control Centre to simplify the structure the use of less environmentally harmful materials.</p> <p>Replacement of Portland Cement is also explained, which involves using materials that have a lower carbon impact but maintain the same qualities of concrete. These materials are being produced at the Boral Manningham concrete plant.</p> <p>Use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) has also been trialled on the project. This fuel source is used as an alternative to Diesel but maintains the same properties. Spark is aiming to be a leader in this area and are hoping that HVO gains traction in the wider industry. This will help to promote the production of this fuel locally which will allow it to be used more broadly.</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)	<p>Construction Update</p> <p>Work sites are expanding along the Eastern Freeway, with more workers and machinery being used in the area. Construction compound set up, pedestrian path detours and lane and ramp closures are also being undertaken.</p> <p>Light poles have been removed along the Eastern Freeway median, with temporary lighting in place. Earthworks, stormwater drainage installation and piling works are also continuing.</p> <p>North of the Freeway, piling works, tree removal, site investigations and prep works for the express busway are the focus at the moment.</p> <p>Works are occurring on the Bulleen Bridge to extend lanes from 7 to 10. Median is being removed to allow for traffic switch ahead of the eastern footpath closure. Following this, the new lanes will be added.</p>

Owner	Discussion
	<p>Koonung Creek Reserve site set up is also shown to the group, including tree removal and civil works.</p> <p>Ped path signage will also be updated, with new designs shown to the group to help path users navigate through the area.</p> <p>Key disruptions coming up are Freeway on ramp closures, in late August and early September. There will also be a bus stop closure as part of these works. The comms team will distribute information to the community to ensure they are informed ahead of these disruptions.</p> <p>Koonung Creek Trail user path diversion is now in place, with path users being directed to the southern side of the Freeway.</p> <p>A new site compound is also being set up at Elgar Park, which will only operate on weekdays.</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)	<p>Backyard Tree Planting Program</p> <p>JLe notes that EBTA have partnered with Yarra Valley Bushland Nursery to provide trees to eligible residents who have registered for the program. So far 103 requests for trees have been received and 309 trees will be delivered over the coming weeks.</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)	<p>Project Information Centre</p> <p>JLe explains that the centre is open Tuesday to Thursday and the team is having a lot of good conversations with locals. The centre is intended to be accessible by both the Greythorn and Belle Vue Traders. EBTA is also continuing to explore opportunities to further engage with traders and provide support options.</p>
Jamie Ledwidge (JLe)	<p>What we are hearing from the community</p> <p>JLe explains that noise is the main complaint at the moment, but that tree removal and road disruptions are also key topics.</p> <p>FF asks about what some of the other key topics are being raised by the community. JLe will present a more detailed breakdown at the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: JLe to present more detailed breakdown of resident interest areas at next meeting.</p> <p>The team are also expecting to hear more from businesses in Balwyn North, Doncaster and Bulleen as works increase. MH mentions that they have taken a lot of learnings from Spark on how best to engage with traders.</p> <p>TS asks how EBTA are monitoring the speed of motorists along the Eastern Freeway, given that many road users do not abide by the 80km/hr speed limit. FF also notes that some drivers are driving erratically. MH explains that the team are working with the Police on a trial to monitor driver behaviour.</p> <p>MH reiterates that the team is open to hear from traders about their needs and wants as construction around the Eastern Freeway continues.</p>

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Update
SB26.1	Final Road design at Manningham Road intersection to be shown at next meeting	IZ	10/09/2024	OPEN

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Update
SB26.2	More detailed breakdown on resident interest areas to be presented at next meeting	JLe	10/09/2024	OPEN

Additional information