

6 June 2024



Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group

Date	6/06/2024	Time	5:30 - 7:30pm
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	4 of 2024
Location	Watsonia RSL	Minute taker	Jacqueline Weedon

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair	Renato Marnich (RM) Trader Engagement Specialist	NELP
Chi Chi Luan (CCL) Mechanical Engineer TBM 1	Spark	Adrian Carter (AC) Acting Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, North	NELP
Sarah Maguire (SM)	Watsonia Traders Association	Amy Harris (AH) Economic Development Coordinator	Banyule City Council
Jim Needham (JN) Communications and Stakeholder Relations Manager, North	NELP	Katy Sylvia (KS) Senior Advisor, Communications and Stakeholder Relations	NELP
Hannah English (HE) Senior Trader Engagement Advisor	Spark	Steve Denton (SD) Interface Zone (Watsonia) Construction Manager	AMA
Hesham Mobarek (HM)	Watsonia Pharmacy/ Watsonia Traders Association	Brett Kavanagh (BK) North Zone (M80) Construction Manager	AMA
Paul Raworth (PR) South Zone (Greensborough) Construction Manager	AMA	Ivan Zarezkij (IZ) Senior Communications Advisor	Spark
Kim Norton (KN) Communications and Stakeholder Relations Lead	AMA	Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical/Watsonia Traders Association

Apologies

Sign up for updates
northeastlink.vic.gov.au



Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Shondelle Mathews (SMA) Manager, Community Engagement	Spark	Matt Guest (MG) General Manager	Watsonia RSL
Karen Leeder (KL) Manager City Futures	Banyule City Council	Kate Zisos (KZ) Senior Community Engagement Advisor	Spark
Tania Treasure (TT) Economic Development & Tourism Lead	Nillumbik Shire Council	Colin Brooks MP (CB)	Member of Parliament
Yvette Stanfield (YS)	Macleod Traders Association		

Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced guest presenters Acknowledged apologies All short term actions are closed
Hannah English (HE) Chi Chi Luan (CCL) Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	<p>Spark Works Update</p> <p>Presentation included update on Spark Trader support, how a TBM works, and southern project update and community interactions</p> <p>HM: When will tunnelling start? CCL: In the middle of the year. We are in the final stages of assembly then will be testing and commissioning.</p> <p>JC: How big are the concrete segments? CCL: They are 2.4 metres wide.</p> <p>KN: Will the cutters get cleaned during tunnelling? CCL: Yes, there will be a fixed cleaning schedule of the individual cutters based on ground conditions.</p> <p>KS: Is it hot underground? CCL: Yes</p> <p>SD: Can the cutterhead be steered? CCL: It can tilt if required</p> <p>JC: Why do the tunnellers have to be clean shaven? CCL: As they wear P2 masks underground these need to be fitted correctly</p> <p>JR: What will be put on the 'future development zone' land? IZ: This will be returned to the State Government as an asset</p> <p>JR: What is the sentiment of the remaining businesses on Bulleen Road? IZ: Sentiment is mixed, there are approximately 33 businesses remaining in the project area. The Manningham Rod diversion has also changed how people move through the area. No businesses have closed since the project started.</p> <p>HE: Discussed the Spark trader voucher roll-out, tailored support for businesses and the Spark schools' program.</p>
Brett Kavanagh (BK) Paul Raworth (PR) Steve Denton (SD) Kim Norton (KN)	<p>M80 Ring Road Update</p> <p>Presentation included works update and community interactions</p> <p>SM: Will 3 lanes in each direction on Greensborough Highway be maintained during construction? BK: Yes</p> <p>How many lanes will there be when construction is completed? BK: There will be 4 in each direction on the Ring Road and 2 in each direction on arterials</p> <p>How will the Grimshaw St/Greensborough Highway be built? PR: This will be done in 2 halves with the southbound lanes being built first.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>MM: Will there be traffic lights installed at AK Lines soon? PR: Yes, this should be completed by the end of July</p> <p>HM: Should the bridge that needs to be built have been done prior to the first realignment? SD: This couldn't have been done without access to the Watsonia Station carpark.</p> <p>JR: How much wider will the Ring Road be and how much of the Watsonia Station carpark will be taken? SD: There will be 3 lanes in each direction and 2 in each direction for the arterial road, we need to take approximately 1/3 of the carpark to create this space</p> <p>JR: When can cars return to the Watsonia Station Carpark? SD: This may not be operational until 2029</p> <p>JR: When will the UDLP for the station be available? JN: We don't have a date yet, but will advise when this is known and when it will be going on exhibition.</p> <p>HM: Will the Elder St intersection remain as shown during the UDLP with potential minor changes? How will the bridge be built? SD: Elder St will be closed for 6-8 days whilst the eastern support structure for the bridge is built. We can't do this safely while Elder St is open as there is a gas main that runs through there.</p> <p>MM: Will there be Traffic Management in place? SD: No, there will be 1 lane flowing in each direction SD: Contraflow will be in place during business hours at the south end of Watsonia Rd in weeks 3 + 5 during the Greensborough Rd realignment works</p> <p>JR: Reduced parking is a major concern, it's not feasible to have 8 businesses running with only 6 carparks available. HM: Have you found offset parking? SD: We are looking for offset parking. JR: Banyule Council have provided a letter which they are happy for me to share with you that I received this afternoon which has some suggestions for potential parking spaces depending on how Watsonia Station carpark is used. We think we have found 2 more potential spots which we would like to discuss onsite with you.</p> <p>HM: What time will Watsonia Rd be closed for works? SD: The crew will start setting up at 9pm JR: Will there be contraflow during business hours until 9pm? SD: Yes, for weekends 3 and 5.</p>
Renato Marnich (RM)	Presentation on NELP Trader Support including trader engagement data and current priorities
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p>Other Business</p> <p>SM: Advised that 'Watsy Mania' promotion has commenced</p> <p>MM: Advised that the first of the Spark vouchers had been used at the RSL</p> <p>Meeting closed at 7:30pm</p> <p>Next Meeting: 1 August</p>

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
2.4	KN to advise if a VMS can be put before the slip lane coming from Lower Plenty to show people how to access Watsonia Shops	KN	06.06.24	Closed	KN to advise if this can be done, more time needed to confirm possible. Update to be provided at meeting on 6 June. Alternative signage being developed as area unsuitable for a VMS.
2.5	KN to provide brochure holders to the RSL to display project works notices and brochures for members to take	KN	06.06.24	Closed	KN and HE noted Spark & AMA working together to provide brochure holders and A-frame sign. KN will provide the A-frame ahead of June meeting.
2.6	HE to provide display stand as per Bulleen Plaza to RSL	HE	06.06.24	Closed	KN and HE noted Spark & AMA working together to provide

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
					signage. HE will provide the stand ahead of June meeting.
2.7	RM to arrange separate M80 and NBLG informational meeting to detail out construction sequencing for traders	RM	06.06.24	Closed	Meetings held with WTA on 24 and 27 May to outline Watsonia Road intersection realignment staging. 1:1 trader meetings underway.
4.1	Maps highlighting tree removals to be shown at next meeting	KN	19.07.24	Open	
4.2	JR to provide RM with a copy of letter re: carparking from Banyule Council	JR	19.07.24	Closed	Letter provided
4.3	SD & RM to meet with WTA onsite to discuss carping options for business at the South end of Watsonia Road	RM	19.07.24	Open	
4.4	Regular meeting between NELP/AMA/WTA to be set up to discuss any changes to the program	KN	19.07.24	Open	
4.5	Simplified maps showing changes to be provided to traders at the southern end of Watsonia Rd	KN	19.07.24	Open	

Actions – Long Term

No	Owner	Topic	Status
1.5	WTA	WTA to work with Banyule Council on the possibility of getting electronic message boards installed	BCC met with WTA 06.07.23. The Committee will investigate some options and provide options ASAP. 21.09.23: ON HOLD - Will revisit Q1 2024
7.5	JN	JN to advise when the details for any planned Watsonia Station car park upgrades will be known	

Future Presentations

Scheduled Date	Date Raised	Topic	Owner	Update
Q4	16.03.23	Presentation on parking solution for southern end of Watsonia shopping strip	RM	NELP Traffic Team is working on this and there will be a presentation to this group when information is available.
2024	09.11.23	Timeline of works for M80 completion to be presented	JN	Will be presented once UDLP approved

Additional information

NA