

Minutes

Subject: February Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 6 February 2025 **Time:** 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: WGTP Information Centre

Apologies: Douglas Morris, Fran Araneda, Adam Bright, Senthill Sundaram, Ebru Saglam, Jala Shekho,

Chair: (KJ) Kim Jordan

Attendees

Community Members	Group/Association Members
(AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville	(GB) Garry Brennan, Bike Network
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	(GY) Glen Yates, Maribyrnong Truck Action Group (MTAG)
(CFR) Con Frescos, Yarraville	(SW) Steve Wilson, Friends of Stony Creek
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	(GM) Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek
(FS) Ferdinand Saliba, Deer Park	Major Road Project Victoria, Victorian Infrastructure Delivery
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(SDR) Shane D'Rozario, Chief Operating Officer
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	(WM) Wambui Migwe, Senior Engagement Officer
(PG) Peter Gerrand, North and West Melbourne	(LE) Liz Evans, Deputy Director Engagement
	(JT) Jordana Thornton, Engagement Coordinator
Council Members	Transurban Representatives
(EM) Eloise McGurn, City of Melbourne	(SF) Scott Frazer, Senior Environment Manager
(MB) Melissa Best, Maribyrnong City Council	(AT) Ashleigh Tomas, Communications and Engagement
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	Joint Venture Representatives
(NH) Neil Hutchinson, City of Melbourne	(MM) Melissa Merrett, Community & Stakeholder Relations Manager
	(CG) Christian Green, Stakeholder & Community Engagement Lead – East
	(DK) Dylan Kunst, Civil & Surface Manager
	(TS) Tim Spawton, Environmental Sustainability Manager
	(NED) Nur Ezzati Daud, Environment, Sustainability & Planning Advisor

Agenda Items

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.30 pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair (Kim Jordan)
5.40 pm	2	WGTP MRPV update	WGTP MRPV
5.50 pm	3	Tunnels update	CPBJH
6.00 pm	4	West update	CPBJH
6.10 pm	5	East update	CPBJH
6.20 pm	6	Graffiti Update	CPBJH
6.25 pm	7	BREAK	All
6.40 pm	8	Member questions	CLG members
7.30 pm	9	Thank you and close	Chair (Kim Jordan)

Introduction

- KJ provided an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed attendees, and mentioned apologies for the night.
- KJ welcomed Wambui Migwe from State attending on behalf of Doug Morris, who is on Parental Leave. KJ welcomed Dylan Kunst presenting the construction update for CPBJH.

Actions update

- Nil.

WGTP MRPV update – Liz Evans

Grants & Partnerships

- The West Gate Neighbourhood Fund has supported more than 260 projects through the \$10m fund with more than 190 now delivered and providing a community benefit.
- Recently completed projects include Spotswood Kingsville RSL revitalisation, Women's circus open day, Williamstown Bowls shade sails.

Outreach

- The project has attended multiple shopping centre pop ups and events over the months of December and January including Altona Gate shopping centre, Yarraville Square shopping centre, Footscray Lunar New Year event, Pacific Werribee shopping centre pop up, Sunshine Lunar New Year festival.
- There are multiple upcoming events that the project will be attending in the month of February including Wyndham Multicultural Lunar Festival, Vietnamese Communities Australia Lunar New Year, St Kilda Festival, Pako Multicultural Festival, Antipodes Greek Festival. LE welcomed members to attend any upcoming community events, and further details can be passed on as required.

Interpretive Artwork installations

- TS provided a status update on the Interpretive Artworks to be installed across the project.
- He specifically noted the importance of areas such as Kororoit Creek and the Moonee Ponds Creek. At the latter, the West Gate Tunnel Project sits above the waterway and the project has improved the access to it.
- Shortlisted artists submitted concepts as part of the competitive tender process.
- CPBJH JV assembled an Indigenous Co-Design Advisory Panel, lead by Project Director Struan Collins, and will evaluate the tender submissions for the four WGTP Indigenous Co-Design opportunities.

Q: (CFR) What are the mitigations if any if these future artworks are vandalised/graffitied?

A: (TS) CPBJH will put in place as many controls as possible to protect the artwork, he referenced the Projects' Environmental Performance Requirements and crime prevention.

Q: (NH) Asked about future maintenance responsibilities.

A: (TS) It was noted that Transurban will maintain the Kororoit Creek area under their lease agreement and there will be various Council responsibilities. The specific responsibilities for each artwork will be advised back to the group.

Construction Update

Tunnel zone – Melissa Merrett & Dylan Kunst

Community engagement update - MM

- The project builder is trying their best to reduce workers parking in local streets near businesses. Eighty new car parks have been created at the Pivot site (off Whitehall St behind the big shed) and another 80 are being built.
- MB requested a written response to Council's letter about worker parking.
- On going support being given to businesses on Harris Street, amidst works taking place, including 10 new parking spaces opened prior to Christmas. Maribyrnong Council also assisted to convert some Whitehall Street 'no standing' areas to 9 new car spaces.

Tunnel zone construction update - DK

- **Harris Street:** Landscaping and concrete pavement works completed from Hyde Street to Cowper Street. Reduction of the worksite to accommodate the extra parking noted above.
- **Southern portal area on West Gate Freeway:** The architectural timber net installation was completed in December, and the focus has now moved to the timber net, diagrid and cladding installation on the Southern outbound portal.
- **Northern tunnel site:** Works are busy in this area where both in and outbound tunnel portals are located. The ventilation structure is increasing in height, and preparation underway for new road asphaltting. Mechanical Electrical & Instrumentation (ME&I) works continue in earnest to allow connection to the integrated Intelligent Transport System (ITS) that will connect to the new control centre on the corner of Whitehall and Youell Streets.
- **Youell Street/Lyons Street works:** Works underway on the north flood wall, retaining walls and maintenance track. The retention basin and Freeway Control Centre car park works continue. Landscaping works are to commence in this area in the cooler months.

IE: Followed up on previous request for information about air quality, tunnel ventilation and filtration as there is a high level of interest from the community.

LE: Noted some tunnel ventilation information was provided in May last year and that further information can be provided to members to assist conversations in the community. LE also commented on the project moving into the education phase this year, where there will be a range of information made available to help educate the road users and community ahead of the project opening.

KJ: Suggested that any previous information on this topic could be shared to the members.

GY: Commented that parking changes on Whitehall Street have helped local parking issues, although he thought likely that truck parking will continue.

West zone – Melissa Merrett & Dylan Kunst

Community engagement update - MM

- The resurfacing works currently underway on the West Gate Freeway outbound have been progressing well, the traffic is moving quite smoothly, and the numbers of complaints are quite low. The team continue to monitor this.
- Maintenance works along the Federation Trail between Millers Road and Kororoit Creek will be done in the cooler months to reinstate and rectify grassed areas and replacing any plants and following the recent path re-surfacing works.
- There has been a lot of community engagement taking place with local shopping centres pop ups and the team handed out summer works disruption notification at Shell Coles Express Laverton North.

West zone construction update - DK

- **Summer works update:** Works on key outbound lanes of the West Gate Freeway between Millers Road and Williamstown Road started on 6 January. From mid-February, crews will switch to inbound lanes and ramps.

- **Bridge over Williamstown Road exit ramp:** Works continue at this location, with lots of concreting works underway. Balustrades to be installed in coming months. This piece of the shared path will form the missing link between Fogarty Avenue and Hyde Street and provide a continuous walking and cycling route across the freeway.

IE: Noted that the community have felt frustrations with the overall amount of works, and multiple notifications of works from different entities, taking place in the West all at once.

IE: Also noted signage is still quite confusing to travel to the West Gate Freeway from the M80, as it is not clear for drivers to move into the left-hand collector distributor lanes rather than the central lanes.

DR: Thought the current traffic flow on the freeway in this area was beautiful. He thought that works on the M80 widening seems to be making the traffic congestion worse when merging onto the West Gate Freeway.

SDR: Suggested in coordination with the M80 Big Build team, to review the conditions. SDR also noted that all the signage within the project is currently being reviewed.

LE noted new signage is being put in for "Freeway exits" and making decisions easier by naming Millers Road and Williamstown Road.

CF: Noted that if the signs were changed to electric signs, it might make it easier to see.

GY: Commented that since the WGF summer works the trucks have increased on Somerville Road, the traffic light sequencing needs to be adjusted to preference Somerville Road so that more than 3 cars can get through. **SDR** Stated they will investigate possibilities with traffic light sequencing.

GM: Asked the timeframe on the maintenance and landscaping works to be completed at Federation Trail as they are wanting to reopen the park in this area and cannot open it until the works are completed.

MM: Advised that the works are being scheduled for April.

GM: Asked about when the Geelong Road compound would be removed. DK thought possibly the 3rd quarter of this year.

KR: Stated that the speed limit signs on the West Gate Freeway don't make sense, for it to go from 40km to 60km to 80km.

MM: Replied that these speed limits are in place under legal obligations in line with the adjacent works areas.

KR: Stated that just past Grieve Parade there is a 100km speed sign placed on a bend of the road on the kerb and might be safer if placed on a straight part of the road.

MM: Will get the team to check and follow up on this.

BB: Noted there are so many trucks on Millers Road in the mornings banked up trying to turn left onto the West Gate Freeway making it impossible for cars to enter the traffic flow. This is due to the Williamstown Road ramp being closed.

East zone – Christian Green & Dylan Kunst

Community engagement update - CG

- There has been interest from the community in shared use paths opening and Maribyrnong River access for boat users.
- The project has had check-ins with businesses on Footscray Road, Dynon Road, Dudley Street and Docklands during the overnight closures on Footscray Road.
- The project held another industry briefing for transportation stakeholder including Port of Melbourne and various trucking companies.

East zone construction update - DK

- **Veloway:** The final modules are now installed and now in final stages of cladding. Further works includes handrailing, lighting and the safety catch net that goes across the top of the veloway.
- **Maribyrnong River Bridges:** Installation of the colourful eel skin cladding panels on the main bridge over Maribyrnong River is progressing well as the slides show.
- **Footscray Road – architectural design:** The 'rope' elements introduced on Footscray Road reflecting Melbourne's maritime history are being installed. Painting and lighting will take place in the coming months for the design to look more complete.
- **Shared path over Moonee Ponds Creek at Dynon Road:** The new shared user path opened to the public in December, improving safety and accessibility for bicycle riders and pedestrians.

Break (6:50PM)

Graffiti update – Melissa Merrett

- Various areas of graffiti removal were undertaken (refer slide).

Member Questions

- **Q:** (IE) Asked when the work site at the top part of New Street is going to be turned into open space and playground. Is there a plan in place and what is the timeline?
- **A:** (SDR) Commented that the obligations to deliver what was in the concept plan is up to Transurban and CPBJH to deliver and he is not aware of timelines at this stage. The powerlines are a factor, and proposals need to be discussed between the project parties. IB commented that the park on The Avenue is also an area of consideration in the discussions.
- **Q:** (GB) Dust at the eastern end of Footscray Road near Appleton dock has been concerning for bike riders and this needs attention.
- **A:** (CG) Will follow this up.
- **Q:** (FS) Commented that he has been out on his bike, riding along Federation Trail and was very impressed with new finish. He commented that there needs to be a bollard / hoop barrier put back in near the Cleanaway entrance. GM mentioned that DTP are looking into this intersection.
- **A:** (MM) The project will follow up.
- **Q:** (GM) Asked when they are likely to get approvals to commence the works on Kororoit Creek Trail, as they have an outstanding grant to put in lighting on Blue Stone Bridge and can't do it until there is the approval.
- **A:** (SDR) Noted there is no firm timeframe however we will advise as soon as possible.
- **Q:** (DR) Asked if there was an outcome on his enquiry from last meeting about Marigold Avenue congestion.
- **A:** (SDR) Noted there was an upcoming internal discussion meeting planned with DTP and will flag it with them and get back to DR directly.
- **A:** (IB) Stated Hobsons Bay Council had no plans to modify that area near Marigold Avenue.
- **Q:** (DR) Is there any indication on who will finish works first between the M80 widening works and the West Gate Tunnel Project?
- **A:** (SDR) Both works are occurring now and aim to finish this year, M80 widening works likely to finish first.

Glen Yates send through some questions prior to the meeting:

- **Q:** What is the Project's official response to the "horseshoe" where trucks can bypass the toll gantry in between Millers Rd and Willy Rd?
- **A:** To be followed up by DTP.
- **Q:** What will happen with the curfew fuelling exemption in place for Somerville Servo? Supporting documentation?
- **A:** To be followed up by DTP.
- **Q:** What will happen with the Moore St curfew exemption zone once the tunnel goes live? What, how and when?
- **A:** To be followed up by DTP.
- **Q:** What comms have gone out to the industry from an educational perspective in the lead up to go live? What, how and who? It was communicated to the CLG in October that this would occur 12 months out from go live.
- **A:** LE noted that there is considerable work underway to create education-based content as we near project opening. As committed to, the project commenced freight industry engagement late last year, 12 months ahead of opening and there are a number of planned events this year. LE added that the project acknowledges the significant importance of an education phase for community, stakeholders and the freight industry across local, outer metro and regional areas.
- **GY:** Would like MTAG to be invited to forums.
- **Q:** Asked for an update on the enforcement camera positioning on the six curfew routes.
- **A:** An answer to be followed up in conjunction with DTP who are leading the No Truck Zone implementation.
- **Q:** GY: Asked for an update on the Flower Market exit strategy.

- **A:** (LE) The site is still actively used by CPBJH, and further information will be provided in due course.
- **Q:** How many CCTV cameras and duress buttons will be installed in the veloway and at what intervals?
- **A:** (LE) Stated that educational content is currently being prepared for all new project assets, including the veloway.
- (SDR) Safety procedures are to be prepared by Transurban. Information on how to use the veloway will be communicated and shared well in advance to project opening.

Member Comments

- (FS) Noted he rode along the new Stony Creek area, which was very good, also along Footscray Road which is looking very impressive.
- (MB) Made everyone aware of some upcoming closures at Geelong Road and Ballarat Road in place for the next 6 weeks due to the new hospital construction.
- (CFR) Made note of the Yarraville Festival coming up on March 23.
- (AB) Wanted to pass on compliments to the engineers and designers on the project, as it is quite incredible seeing it come together.
- (AB) Noted during a recent rain event, there was a lot of water gushing through gaps in the overhead roadway above Footscray Road onto cars driving below.
- (GM) Asked when approval is likely to get solar lighting on the bluestone bridge. SD said he did not know a timeframe yet.
- Members expressed interest in more site visits this year. CG and LE noted this and will consider in the future.
- (DR) Commented that trucks heading outbound on the West Gate Freeway seem to be using the right lane more than the left which can affect traffic flow.

Meeting close (7:40PM)

- (KJ) Closed the meeting and thanked members.
- Confirmed the next meeting will be taking place Thursday 20 March 2025.