

Meeting Minutes

Northern Business Liaison Group (NBLG)

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| Date | 1/07/2021 | Time | 7:30-9:30am |
| Chair | Jeni Coutts | Meeting no. | 3 |
| Location | Watsonia Community Hub | Minute taker | Nadia Hollins |

Attendees

| Attendees | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Name | Organisation | Name | Organisation |
| Jeni Coutts (JC) | Independent Chair | Jeremy Richards (JR) | Watsonia Optical |
| Georgie Nathan (GN) | Nillumbik Shire Council | Matt Guest (MG) | Watsonia RSL |
| Erica Hardie (EH) | Banyule City Council | Duncan Elliott (DE) | NELP |
| Toni Clark (TC) | NELP | Nadia Hollins (NH) | NELP |
| Bill Himonas (BH) | NELP | Alec Say (AS) | MRPV |
| Dave Kristy (DK) | MRPV | Sheldon Clark (SC) | MRPV |
| Katie Zisos (KZ) | CPB | Carlene Rutledge (CZ) | CPB |

| Apologies | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name | Organisation | Name | Organisation |
| Tony Aouad (TA) | Kebab Nation & Anchor Fish & Chips | Noella Jacobs (NJ) | Greensborough Chamber of Commerce |
| Sarah Maguire (SM) | Watsonia Traders Association | Neslim Djemal (ND) | MRPV |
| Hannah Johnson (HJ) | NELP | | |

Key discussion points/decisions

| Owner | Action |
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| Jeni Coutts (JC), Chair | Welcome and outstanding business |

| Owner | Action |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JC welcomed the group and introduced the presenters, their roles and what they will be presenting on. - Actions & Issues Register. (see attached) |
| Duncan Elliott (DE), NELP | <p>Project update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spark is the preferred bidder for the tunnelling package of the project. Spark Consortium is made up of WeBuild, GS Engineering and Construction, CPB Contractors, China Construction Oceania, Ventia, Capella Capital, John Laing Investments, DIF and Pacific Partnerships. The tender process took six months longer due to the scale and complexity of the task. Once the tender process to secure the preferred builder for the tunnelling package has been finalised, secondary packages will be put out through separate contractual arrangements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bidders' submissions were evaluated on a range of considerations, including design solutions, jobs and employment, land use, managing traffic, urban design outcomes and construction and community impacts, along with value for money. – Urban design and landscape plans (UDLPs) are the next detailed design stage of the project. Strict EES conditions are set for the project, and refining the local urban design elements including materials, finishes and landscaping. The UDLPs will be prepared and exhibited for each work package. – Once contracts are signed, key stakeholders including this group, will be introduced to NELP construction partner, Spark, to discuss construction disruptions and management plans. – The next steps of the project are to work with the preferred bidder to negotiate a final contract and finalise concept designs. – Once the tunnelling package is awarded, other key elements of NEL will be put to market. – Early works including sport and recreational upgrades will come to an end early in 2022, enabling the preferred bidder a clear run to start work mid-year. - JR requested an update of the Watsonia design to assist in direction for the Watsonia Town Square Plan. - However, this will not be possible until the winning bidder has been fully secured as the design may change. NELP is committed to releasing the final designs as soon as possible and will work with the Watsonia Traders Association and Banyule City Council to make sure plans are compatible. |
| <p>Carlene Rutledge (CR), CPB</p> <p>Kate Zisos (KZ), CPB</p> | <p>Early works update</p> <p>CR & KZ provided an overview of the early works in the northern area and the progression of the project works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Drainage works are currently being carried out in the reserve, north of Drysdale Street and in Borlase to facilitate the Banyule Creek diversion prior to the main works. – The water pressure reducing station (PRS) is being relocated to Coleen Street Reserve. New structures and trenching and new water pipes will be installed. – Water main relocations and the installation of the large DN1700 water main in Borlase Street have been completed. Works commenced in early May in Moorwatha Street to connect the newly installed water pipes to the existing water network. |

| Owner | Action |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relocation of overhead power lines and power poles on Greensborough Road, Lower Plenty Road and Creek Bend Reserve commenced in May. The works are expected to take up to three months with combination of day, night and out of hours works. - Gas relocation works on Greensborough Road, ongoing trenching and pipe installation works at night in northbound lanes between Erskine Road and Watsonia Road. - Relocation of electricity infrastructure, ongoing trenching/conduit installation works continue to progress nightly behind the gas relocation works. - 24-hour works will start on 28 June of gas tie in works near Watsonia Road between Powley Parade and Richards Avenue. - Electricity and telecommunications service upgrade and relocation works on 'Old' Greensborough Road are almost complete and handover to AusNet is expected to occur sometime in August. - Gas main works at Elder Street and Watsonia Station Car Park, and three distribution gas mains at Watsonia Road, Todman Street and Grimshaw Street. Works projected for late 2021 or early 2022 commencement. - Ford and Binnak Park sporting upgrades are on track for an August completion. Feedback from the community has been very positive and well received. - JR enquired as to the timing of night works at the Watsonia Road/Greensborough Road intersection, specifically around how traffic flow can be arranged to reduce the impacts on night working businesses? eg. Can traders be provided forward notice of works/closures? - JR to supply a business contact list so CPB can contact businesses directly. - MG said the RSL trades until 1am, and Wednesday to Saturday are its busiest days. CR offered to organise a flyer to communicate to the RSL patrons. |
| Dave Kristy (DK), MRPV | <p>M80 upgrade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The M80 upgrade works involve widening the freeway, widening on and off ramps and installing a new freeway management system along 38km of road all the way from Laverton North to Greensborough. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project upgrade will increase capacity, improve safety, and create more reliable travel times for over 165,000 motorists. - Three sections of work remain, Sydney Road to Edgars Road, currently under construction, Plenty Road to Greensborough Highway section, which is being delivered as part of NEL, and the Princes Freeway to Western Highway section, which is currently in planning. - Using noise-reducing asphalt that will absorb tyre noise and reduce overall noise, ramps will be approximately six metres high so vehicles and trucks can safely pass underneath and installing acrylic panels on the ramp to ensure privacy for residents living nearby. - Two-week closure during the upgrade of Edgars Road interchange. 40,000 people use this interchange. |

| Owner | Action |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local community were involved in choosing the colour for the bridge refreshment as part of the Blaxland Avenue overpass upgrade. The project received more than 1,100 community votes in choosing the colour via QR Code, SMS or online resulting in Kikuyu as the colour. - Project is over 60 per cent of the way through. |
| <p>Sheldon Clark (SC), MRPV Alec Say (AS), MRPV</p> | <p>Fitzsimons Lane upgrade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus points of the project upgrade, roundabout removal and installing traffic lights at the Main Road and Leane Drive intersection and Fitzsimons Lane and Main Road, installing new traffic lights at Fitzsimons Lane and Porter Street intersection and Williamsons Road and Foote Street intersection, - River Peel sculpture relocation from the Fitzsimons Lane and Porter Street roundabout in Templestowe to a site further along Fitzsimons Lane just south of the Yarra River as part of the upgrade to traffic lights in that intersection. - Artist impression photos of Fitzsimons Lane and Main Road intersection, looking toward Templestowe and Eltham and the Fitzsimons Lane and Porter Street intersection. 60,000 commuters use this intersection daily which is well over its capacity. Queues can build to 1.5 kilometres long. - MRPV is working with the local community to balance road safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians and factoring in the local importance of the Eltham gateway and the replanting and saving of trees in and around the project area. - Buses are important to this area, providing public transport links in an area which lacks train or tram services. The project will add bus priority lanes at Porter and Foote Streets. - Fitzsimons Lane upgraded is expected to be complete by mid-2023. |
| <p>Jeni Coutts (JC), Chair</p> | <p>What keeps you up at night?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EH introduced herself and her role at Banyule City Council. She spoke about the Watsonia Town Square Plan and would like to understand the NELP design so both interfaces can be coordinated. EH would like to present the Town Square draft plan to this group later this year. - Q: EH requested that the NELP Trader Engagement Plan and the Business Disruption Mitigation Strategy be provided to the reference group once completed to enable both projects to integrate. - Q: JR, even though COVID-19 has caused enormous disruption, he would like to know how the traders can keep their businesses open and running during the project works and how to manage disruptions? - MG, the Watsonia RSL is a destination venue, operating day, and night, and relies on roads being open. the busiest time for the RSL is 4pm - 10pm so the disruptions will be unavoidable. - GN introduced herself and her role at Nillumbik Shire Council. GN spoke about the COVID-19 Response Support Officers from the Working with Victoria Fund who will be visiting Nillumbik businesses. The business visits are predominately related to COVID-19. Will share feedback that may capture disruptions or concerns related to the various major projects in the area. |

| Owner | Action |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- KZ said she is happy to talk with the business owners and work through to lessen the impacts and disruptions to their business.- JC thanked all participants and closed the meeting at 9.30am. |

Actions and issues arising

Refer to Actions and Issues Register.

NBLG Actions and Issues Register

| Mtg # | Action/Issue | Owner | Status | Date closed |
|-------|--|-------|--|-------------|
| 1 | NJ to share LGRP representative contact information to HJ. | NELP | CLOSED Information received | 30/04/21 |
| 1 | HJ to investigate how to share works notifications and updates to NBLG | NELP | CLOSED Hard or fixed copy content for sharing of works notifications: all current and updated notifications are available on the NELP website. The changing nature of works notifications prohibits hard copy or fixed copy content. Stakeholders are recommended to view works notifications online in order to get the most up to date information. Once the builder consortium is appointed, they will develop an email database of all impacted traders and develop a regular e-newsletter with links to the website for works information. | 20/05/21 |

| Mtg # | Action/Issue | Owner | Status | Date closed |
|-------|--|-------|---|-------------|
| 1 | E-newsletter campaign for traders | NELP | CLOSED An additional trader e-newsletter will not be developed as there is minimal content at this time and may result in less engagement from traders, however this will form part of the Trader Engagement Plan once the builder consortium is appointed and the project design is finalised. | 20/05/21 |
| 2 | JR to submit questions from the Watsonia Traders Association | NELP | CLOSED NELP has provided an initial response to those questions. | 1/7/21 |
| 2 | NELP to invite other MTIA projects to present at upcoming NBLG meetings. | NELP | OPEN M80 and Fitzsimons Lane upgrades to present on 1/7/21 Hurstbridge 2 to present on 12/08/21 | |
| 3 | JR to supply a business listing to CR | NELP | OPEN Awaiting listing from JR | |

| Mtg # | Action/Issue | Owner | Status | Date closed |
|-------|---|-------|---|-------------|
| 3 | EH to present the WTS Draft Plan | NELP | <p>OPEN</p> <p>EH to confirm appropriate timing</p> | |
| 3 | TC to provide Business Disruption Mitigation Strategy to EH upon finalisation of document | NELP | <p>OPEN</p> <p>Awaiting finalisation of document</p> | |
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