

3 May 2024



Meeting Minutes

Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	3/05/2024	Time	10:00am - 12:00pm
Chair	Mike Marasco	Meeting no.	3 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
Elizabeth Patena (EP)	NELP, Acting Community Partnerships Manager	Jacqueline Weedon (JW)	NELP, Community Partnerships Advisor
Bruce Plain (BP)	Community Representative	Glennys Jones (GJ)	Community Representative
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council	Frank Freschi (FF)	Community Representative
Michael Hobbs (MH)	NELP, Manager, Stakeholder Relations and Communications - South	Hamid Peimany (HP)	Spark, Communications and Community Engagement Advisor
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Laing O'Rourke, Senior Community Relations Manager	Sam Doyle (SD)	NELP, Interface Engagement Manager
Shaun Leane MP (SL)	Member of Parliament	Judith Voce (JV)	Community Representative
Tallis Richmond (TL)	NELP, Government Relations Manager	Mason Engelder (ME)	Spark, Environment
Ben Scott (BS)	Spark, Project Manager	John van Delft (JvD)	Community Representative
Mia McMahon (MMc)	Spark, Manager Community Engagement		

Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Otto Sargent (OS)	Community Representative	Ros Magee (RM)	Community Representative
Nic Morton (NM)	NELP, Senior Communications and Stakeholder Relations Advisor	Nicholas Moore (NM)	Community Representative

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Connor Curtin (CC)
Project Officer

Manningham City Council

Alexander Law (AL)

Community Representative

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 Outstanding items: MM raised issue of lighting on the Eastern Freeway between Burke and Bulleen Roads on behalf of RM. MH explained issue. See additional information. <p>Action SC24 1-1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD: Worked between Tunnels package and Eastern freeway Package to collaborate on a pedestrian detour map. GJ: Detours need to reflect cyclists. Green light for turning at the same time as the pedestrian light is a risk. <p>Action SC24 3-5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GJ: Green light for turning at the same time as the pedestrian light is a risk at the signals to the immediate south of the Veneto club on Bulleen Road <p>Action SC24 2-5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MMC: We at Spark have an external provider that undertakes property condition surveys to high impact residents. We do a survey at the beginning and at the end of the project. That tells us what damage is potentially related to tunnelling construction activities, anything else goes through private house insurance such as general wear and tear and damage that existed prior to the survey. <p>Action SC24 2-1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD: We've revised the detour maps, will make sure the location is right. GJ: I recorded video on my GoPro and made comments where the signage needs to be. SD: Could you please send that across. <p>Action SC24 2-8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD: The Environmental Audit report from May to October 2023 is now live on our website. We'll have a presentation on this for the next meeting. <p>Action SC24 2-9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JL: There will be traffic lights installed to prevent left-hand turn into the compound. JV raised previous concern about fencing and access for maintenance staff for Freeway Golf Course. MH addressed concerns. The fencing will be temporary. JL added that access for staff will be maintained. SD: Solar panels are being factored into the final design. Having solar panels on temporary buildings is being looked at. GJ: I spoke with works at the SRL Stabling Yards work site. They told me their standalone site office is solar and off grid. Actions: JW to send Environmental Audit to members after meeting.
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	<p>Presentation covering Eastern Freeway works.</p> <p>MH: Thanks to CD we've changed the colour of the hoarding from black to eucalyptus green and it's made a big difference. We'll show a picture next meeting. JL: In the next meeting we'll share our Engage Vic hoarding design survey.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>GJ: How are you getting the survey to reach residents? JL: We letterbox dropped and doorknocked residents closest to the hoarding.</p>
	<p>CD: Where will we be able to find the diversion video? JL: You'll find it on socials as we get closer to the closure.</p>
	<p>MM: Will the hub be similar to the one in Watsonia? JL: It will be at a smaller scale. It will be open three days a week, including one weekend day.</p>
	<p>JC: What sort of safety measure will you be able to give for the sporting clubs close to the sound barriers? JL: In terms of safety, we have a variety of ways to safely drop trees. Some of these have been tested in Koonung Creek Reserve away from shared user paths. There will be temporary fencing near Manningham Juventus to keep the area safe.</p>
	<p>JC: Has there been communication with clubs that their activities won't be impacted? JL: We haven't gotten to that stage yet, but you are next on our list.</p>
	<p>CD: Wanted to thank the team. There were some concerns around safety of children when crossing Balwyn Road to get to Boroondara Park Primary School. We've gotten a fantastic outcome to help children cross the road.</p>
	<p>JV: There is a concern that the stock being replaced is tube stock and it's not good enough. We need a more sustainable replacement. MH: We're planting a variety of species which will be showed in the urban design and landscaping plan that's coming out midway this year. JL: We'll come back in a future meeting to present what we'll be planting.</p>
	<p>CD: In our experience we've had success with planting mature trees. I agree that tube stock also isn't suitable. LM: Adding on to that in our experience, Whitehorse has also had success with our tree planting. We have a nursery that is in high demand.</p>
	<p>FF: Can you confirm what type of works you'll be doing at nighttime versus peak hour outbound and inbound and what type of communications you are going to provide? JL: The 40km speed limit is only while we're working on the freeway when we're setting up traffic management, closing lanes etc. Generally during the day its 80km and it will remain that speed until the end of the project. The only time you'll see a peak time delay is with advance notice. We have big comms campaigns.</p>
	<p>FF: What time do you usually start setting up traffic management? JL: Usually between 8pm and 9:30pm. It takes time to set up, so patience is required.</p>
	<p>FF: When setting up it might be a consideration to have a police presence at those set up points. JL: We do regularly talk to highway patrol.</p>
<p>Mia McMahon (MMc) Ben Scott (BS) Mason Engelander (ME)</p>	<p>Presenting on Tunnel Update, Manningham Road Diversion, community engagement, signage, environment and TBM naming competition.</p> <p>FF: Once work at Trinity is done, will the land on top be restored? BS: Yes, there's a Trinity Masterplan. There's some hockey courts and tennis courts and the land will be relandscaped.</p> <p>FF: How much concrete is being used at the roof slab pours at Trinity Grammar? BS: 1750 thick is the roof slab, the base is 1550. They're about 1800 cubes of concrete per pour, 700 tonnes of steel per slab.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>FF: Were there light spill concerns around the Trinity area and Templestowe Road? MMc: Yes, Templestowe Road is where we heard those complaints, particularly with our work site where we are doing a lot of night works.</p>
	<p>GJ: Do you keep track of those complaints so you can warn and take measures for residents sensitive to light spill. MMc: Yes, there's definitely support options for residents, particularly those adjacent to the worksites. There are things we can do on site as well so it's not as impactful.</p>
	<p>MM: Has anyone taken up the relocation option? MMc: Yes. We have a relocation system where we assess what the noise impacts will be and if they're exceeding those limits then we will offer relocation to those impacted. A lot of the time people don't take up relocation because it can be disruptive so that's when we can help with respite options as well.</p>
	<p>JV: How do complaint statistics for the south compare to the north project area? MMc: I haven't had a look at the north interactions, but I imagine it would be similar. Their numbers may be higher given the size of their project site. We can have a look and see if that's something we can show in the next meeting.</p>
	<p>JV: I would like to understand bus routes and diversions. For example, there's currently an on-ramp bus stop at the Eastern Freeway, is that going to remain? MH: It will be relocated to a similar spot on the Eastern Freeway during August/September.</p>
	<p>JV: Where will all temporary and final bus stops be? MH: A lot of it will be refined as we go along. We work with PTV on these changes. Users will know 6 weeks prior via PTV channels so there's no shock and we compliment with our comms.</p>
	<p>JV: I assume there will be corflutes to advise people what's happening? MH: Yes, that's part of our comms.</p>
	<p>GJ: On the issue on lighting. If there's properties impacted by lighting is there a possibility to offer blackout blinds? MMc: That's part of our respite options being offered to residents close to worksites</p>
	<p>FF: When you're going northbound on Bulleen Road and you're taking the left turn there is one lane that goes into the worksite. I've noticed some traffic going there by mistake. MMc: We've had a couple members of the public getting confused thinking that was a turn off for a different street. We've installed signs to say work access only.</p>
	<p>CD: Some of the directional signage on Bulleen Road into Marcellin is at the Freeway Golf Course compound entry which is confusing. SD: I saw that this morning, one of them is to note the access to Marcellin. We'll have a chat to the team about that.</p>
	<p>GJ expressed difficulty reading the map in the meeting. MMc: We'll send the pedestrian detour map around after the meeting. We can look into any suggestions you have.</p>
	<p>FF: Last time we did the diversion at Bulleen Road we had some issues with people going along the northern boundary single lane inside Veneto Club property. One of the things we learned was to get google maps current.</p>
	<p>GJ: The wait for the pedestrian lights at Belle Vue primary school is too long. Can the wait for those be shortened? MH: That's something we can investigate.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>JV: How does access from the Eastern Freeway to the Tunnel work? MMC: You enter into the tunnel from the Eastern Freeway, or you can come off and travel on Bulleen Road. EP: There's a video that explains those movements. I can share the link for that.</p> <p>FF: Before you get to BAAG there's a road that's coming out there, what does that road link to? MMc: That's an exit ramp at Manningham.</p> <p>FF: Do you keep track of noise levels for before, present and after the project? ME: Assessments started in covid and there will be an update soon of the data. We have real time monitors in place as well as the team going on site directly.</p> <p>FF: We are now 30/40 metres closer to the road and the noise levels are much higher. We have outdoor facilities which are impacted. Is it part of your EPR to look at noise impacts after the project? ME: Yes that's part of Spark and the design teams requirements to look at that.</p>
Elizabeth Patena (EP)	Presenting on community grants. The Greener North East grants was discussed and was closed 3pm Tuesday 7 May 2024. The next round of grants are expected to launch mid year.
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p>Other Business</p> <p>GJ: Wanted to bring the report 'Inquiry into the impact of road safety behaviours on vulnerable road users' to the attention of North East Link. Suggest there are some aspects that could be looked at. JW shared link to report after the meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting 14 June 2024</p> <p>Thanked SCLG members and presenters and closed the meeting at 11:55am.</p>

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 1-1	Has a pedestrian safety audit been completed on Bulleen Road? There is no wayfinding signage	MMc	22 March 2024	Closed	MMc has confirmed 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	Closed	MMc has shared detour map, open for feedback.
SC24 2-3	A breakdown of complaints per category to be provided at the next meeting.	MMc	03 May 2024	Closed	MMc has provided breakdown of the complaints.
SC24 2-5	Potential damage to properties and private house insurance re property condition surveys	MMc	03 May 2024	Closed	MMc has clarified resolution methods between private house insurance and damage caused by project.
SC24 2-7	Clearer detour maps of SUP diversions to be provided	JL	03 May 2024	Closed	Clearer maps have been 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	Link sent round to group members after the meeting and item will be included at next meeting

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 2-9	JL to advise how left turn into compound will be prevented	JL	03 May 2024	Closed	JL confirmed that there will be traffic management in place to prevent this.
SC24 2-10	JL to provide detail of the SUP detours to GJ for her to share with bicycle network	JL	03 May 2024	Closed	JL has spoken with GJ about SUP detours.
SC24 3-1	JW to share link to published Environmental Audit after meeting	JW	14 June 2024	Closed	JW sent link with minutes from meeting on 22 March
SC24 3-2	JL to share Engage Vic hoarding survey outcome next meeting	JL	14 June 2024	Open	
SC24 3-3	MMc to share a comparison between north and south complaint data next meeting	MMc	14 June 2024	Open	
SC23 3-4	EP to share a link to an explainer video explain traffic movements from Eastern Freeway into the Tunnel and onto Bulleen Road.	EP	14 June 2024	Closed	JW sent link to members after meeting

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. 	MH to advise once information is available

No	Owner	Topic	Status
		A shared path would provide the only safe and direct north bound crossing.	
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 3-1	JL	JV wants to know more about what plants will be planted and if it will be tube stock.	JL to present on what species will be planted once that information is available.
SC24 3-2	MH	GJ raised the issue of traffic light times being too long at the primary school crossing	MH to investigate

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

Please see below questions raised by RM prior to the meeting, these have been added to the minutes as requested

RM: Is there any proposal from NELP to upgrade noise walls WEST of Burke Road? I know Nexus' scope is only from Burke to Tram Roads, but residents have been asking.....the enclave between Hays Paddock and Burke Road is very, very noisy.

MH: We're delivering a tough new noise standard for the Eastern Freeway between Hoddle Street and Tram Road. We'll be building new and upgraded noise walls to meet a stringent daytime noise standard of 63 decibels. This is in line with the highest level of traffic noise protection in Victoria. More information on the proposed design for the project between Burke Road and Hoddle Street will be shared in late 2025 for community feedback via a 21 day Urban Design and Landscape Exhibition.

RM: Lighting on the Eastern Freeway between Burke and Bulleen Road has been out for many years, so its absence isn't Nexus' issue, per se. However, given the works that are going on in that area, the speed limits have been properly lowered to protect workers, but the only lighting appears to be work site lighting. Community members would like to know what risk assessment has been performed and if not, why not? Will the main lights be repaired whilst work proceeds?

MH: The legacy freeway lighting along the Eastern Freeway between Burke and Bulleen Rd is no longer compliant and, as you have mentioned, does not light the freeway to the same level as you may have seen on other major roads. While permanent, compliant lighting will be installed as part of the Eastern Freeway Upgrades, the worksite lighting you describe is temporarily providing light to freeway users and workers alike. This has been independently assessed as part of a formal Road Safety Audit to ensure compliant lighting levels are provided along the freeway, sufficient to ensure safety to motorists. The legacy lighting will be progressively removed as part of our works.

RM: With respect to the second item of my email dated 16 April 2024 regarding Eastern Freeway lighting between Burke and Bulleen Roads, I am having trouble reconciling the official response with what I observed this evening.

I arrived home at about 8.15 after having driven east along the Eastern Freeway from Chandler Highway and exited at Bulleen Road, turning right towards North Balwyn. The weather was medium showers and visibility, whilst not poor, was compromised. I witnessed two near misses on the trip between Burke and Bulleen Roads.

My observations are :

Four major central lights were out between Belford Road and Burke Road – outside the Nexus work. Why are they inoperative? They are the only lights on the freeway.....if they aren't compliant, why isn't something being done now, before a major accident. Just because it's out of the work zone, does not abrogate standards of safe and compliant lighting to be provided now, not at some indeterminate time in the future.....why should the users be put at risk?

The lighting between Burke and Bulleen Roads is only from the south side and appears only to light the work zones. The response "temporarily providing light to freeway users and workers alike" doesn't make sense to me - I cannot see how it could be considered safe when one side of a freeway is unlit.

There are NO lights illuminating the eastbound lane from Burke to Bulleen Roads. There are fixtures on the northern side of this lane, but they are not working.

There are no lights on the eastbound off ramp at Bulleen Road at all. Visibility there tonight was poor, and the only illumination came from flood lit site sheds.

None of the above is an issue of inconvenience - I am sure the community, by and large, is accepting of inconvenience to achieve a desired long-term result. The issue appears to be one of safety, which must be paramount for workers and users. I believe that the traffic engineers, or whoever is responsible for the lighting along the entire Eastern Freeway, from Hoddle to Elgar, should do an immediate night site visit and then prepare a robust report as to how safety will be addressed, because at present, this freeway appears to be dangerous. Immediate action needs to occur to eliminate these risks and then someone should address these matters, as resolved, in person at our monthly meeting.

MH: Thank you for raising this with us. In regards to lighting on the Eastern Freeway, I can confirm our project team have investigated the original freeway lighting in the centre median between Burke Road and Bulleen Road and have rectified the fault. Lighting further west is managed by Department of Transport and Planning and we will report the issue to them for rectification.

We are expected to illuminate the long-term temporary lighting installed on the shoulders of the Eastern Freeway from next week under night-time traffic management and lane closures.