

Minutes



Subject: Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: 23 October 2025 **Time:** 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Location: Transurban Freeway Control Centre

Attendees

Attendees (Name/Organisation)	
Community Members	Transurban
(AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville	(MR) Melanie Ryan
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	Major Road Projects Victoria, Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority
(CFR) Con Frescos, Yarraville	(PS) Paul Smith, Deputy Director Traffic
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	(DM) Douglas Morris, Manager Community Relations
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(AS) Ashleigh Simpson, Engagement Coordinator
(FS) Ferdinand Saliba, Deer Park	(AD) Amy Dai, Graduate, Community Relations
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	
Council Members	
(MB) Melissa Best, Maribyrnong City Council	

Agenda

Time	#	Item	Owner
5.30pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair (Kim Jordan)
5.35pm	2	Actions update	All
5.40pm	3	Preparing for road opening	Paul Smith Douglas Morris
6.00pm	4	WGTP 'Discovery Day'	Emily Alvis
6.35pm	5	Construction update	Melanie Ryan
6.50pm	6	BREAK	All
7.05pm	7	Member questions	All
7.30pm	8	Meeting close	All

Introduction

KJ provided an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed attendees and mentioned apologies.

Actions update

1. Hoops to be installed outside Cleanaway

(DM) DTP has them on order and will arrange for the install in next couple of weeks.

2. Donald McLean Reserve: impact of tree planting activities on practice wickets and the removal of temporary fencing

(DM) The delivery and design teams have confirmed that planting has commenced in that area. The issue has arisen because the design was issued for construction in 2019, but the cricket nets weren't considered in the design as they weren't built until 2021. The delivery team have confirmed that the plants will be moved further away from the cricket nets to a more appropriate location. The temporary fencing has been removed.

(MB) From a council planning perspective we have gone back and looked at the 2018 plan, and there have been considerable changes. Other appropriate planting places have been chosen and are being worked through in collaboration with CPBJH.

Q. (IE) There needs to be further discussion on the impact of shading, maintenance and water, updates made to the 2018 plan and finding an alternative to gum trees and the need for strategic planting to stop erosion. There should have been more community liaison in the planning for this area.

A. (MR) Need to liaise with JV further on this issue

3. How much funding has been provided by WGTP in relation to Initiative 18 of the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan?

(DM) The proposed open space west of Moonee Ponds Creek is currently being developed into a BMX track by the West Gate Tunnel Project's builder as part of their project scope. We are unable to provide costings for individual parts of the project.

Regarding the recommendation from the Inquiry and Advisory Committee report to fund the masterplan for a linear reserve along Moonee Ponds Creek, the WGTP team in VIDA Roads (formerly Western Distributor Authority) provided resource support funding to the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) to lead the development of the Moonee Ponds Creek masterplan.

This funding was for VPA resources working on the plan, consistent with other similar arrangements between government agencies. This funding was not intended to deliver initiatives within the plan. Please note that VPA is now part of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). As per our previous response, we understand that the draft masterplan is being reviewed by DTP to finalise.

MRPV Update

Preparing for road opening: Paul Smith, Deputy Director, Traffic

- **PS** provided an overview of completed work along the West Gate freeway. Intelligent Transport System commissioning is complete. There will still be some night ramp closures upcoming for commissioning and defect works.
- Footscray Road is open to its ultimate configuration.
- Veloway construction is complete and undergoing final commissioning works.
- Rainbow bridge opened on Friday 17 October.
- Wurundjeri Way extension is opening to the public on Monday 27 October.

Q. (IE) Can you provide an update on the requested review of signage on the West Gate Freeway?

A. (PS) All signs on the WGF network have been completed, this included an extensive review by VIDA Roads, DTP and Transurban. The WGF has been operating in its final ultimate configuration for several months now. Observations of traffic movements suggest drivers are increasingly becoming more familiar with the new arrangements. The number of enquiries on freeway-related sign/ lane usage matters are continually reducing. If coming from M1 or M80 stay right to go over the WGB, or stay left to exit at Millers, Williamstown, Tunnel or Hyde Street ramps.

KJ requested the project team to provide a resource to support members in discussing this issue with the community.

Education Phase recap - Douglas Morris, Manager Community Relations

- The WGTP engagement team has successfully completed over 100 days of community engagement activities across Victoria. Close to 42,000 people interacted with the project over this period. We thank the CLG members for their support across this endeavour.
- The project's activation at the Melbourne Royal Show was awarded Silver for excellence in community connection.

WGTP 'Discovery Day' - Emily Alvis, Deputy Director, Social Impact & Partnerships

EA provided an overview of WGTP Discovery Day on 19 November.

- A large-scale community celebration to thank locals for their patience during the long-term construction.
- Family friendly celebration in Yarraville Gardens including free entertainment, kids' zone, driver simulator and food available to purchase from local vendors
- Free 2.5km accessible walk through the West Gate Tunnel and surrounding infrastructure. Approximately 6,000 people will be able to walk through the tunnel per hour
- 8km run through the West Gate Tunnel and elevated road. A \$58 registration fee for the run will raise funds for charity partners West Welcome Wagon and Community Bike Hub.
- To thank the community for their patience, locals in areas that have been highly impacted by construction were provided with priority access codes. These have gone to 58,000 households in suburbs such as Yarraville, Altona North, Seddon, Brooklyn and others.
- Locals will receive their codes between Monday 20 and Friday 25 October. Code is valid until 1 November. 50% of registrations are reserved for our local communities.

Q. (IE) Why was the CLG not consulted on the planning for this event?

A. (DM) There has been an extensive planning process with many moving parts that have required sign off by executive teams and Government to ensure the Project can host an event of this scale. The event is also being delivered by an events company who specialise in delivering these large-scale activations.

(EA) The CLG is the first group outside of Maribyrnong City Council to be briefed at this level on the event. We are starting to engage local businesses now. CLG was the first stakeholder invite sent.

(MR) We needed to ensure we could host an event this large before going public. Now we can confirm it's going ahead we can work out the details together.

Q. (CF) Are you using local food trucks for the event?

A. (EA) Council provided a list of local vendors, and we contacted them through an expression of interest process. We have gone with 12 local known suppliers. Guiding our events agency to engage with local and impacted businesses ahead of others.

(MR) We also have a heavy focus on the inclusion of First Nations and sustainable practices

Q. (AB) Will the new toilet block be finished in time?

A. (MB) We will need to get back to you on that, however Yarraville Gardens was chosen for its infrastructure benefits as well as project proximity.

(EA) There will be portable toilets available.

Q. (CF) Is there an opportunity for the project to showcase Indigenous art at this event?

A. (EA) We are finalising how we will profile art and local Indigenous history.

Q. (FS) Will there be provisions made for bicycle parking?

A. (EA) Our key messages displayed on the event page online and throughout advertising material advise attendees to use active transport and public transport. There will be a temporary bike park available at Yarraville Gardens.

MR invited members to review the project's event page Q&A and provide feedback.

MB noted that no bikes or scooters will be allowed on the walk or run.

Q. (CF) Have local traders' associations been contacted regarding Discovery Day?

A. (DM) Engagement with local businesses has begun in the last 24 hrs and will continue into tomorrow

EA confirmed that public registrations for Discovery Day open 9am tomorrow morning (24 October 2025)

KJ noted that the early access code will last for one week post general registrations. Asked members to look on website and do a gap analysis and send on these questions via email.

Construction update - Melanie Ryan, Transurban

- Tunnels asphaltting is complete, and commissioning is underway. There is further work remaining on road surface such as line marking. Prioritising education of key industry stakeholders to ensure they know what to expect upon project opening.
- Tunnel portal works are progressing as quickly as possible
- West Gate Freeway ITS commissioning is underway including lighting, technical monitoring, variable signs, all smart motorway aspects. The community can expect continuation of nighttime ramp closures until complete.
- Hyde St & Somerville Rd works have commenced to ensure two-way flow for cyclist and incorporate the cyclist phase into the intersection. Respite has been provided to impacted households during this work.
 - **GY** experienced VMS placement issue for heavy vehicles last weekend. Thanked State for quick response.
- BMX park off Footscray Road has commenced development
- Construction demobilisation around the Southern outbound portal has begun, there will be continued work post opening for defects and planting. Current focus is on safety and function for project opening.

--- BREAK ---

Member questions and comments

GM sent through photo of Williamstown Road and signage. There is a lot of signage, trees that are impacting views of the signage and it's quite hard to understand.

Q. (IE) What are the rules around electric bikes on the veloway?

A. (MR) Legal e-bikes and scooters are allowed.

FS offered congratulations on rainbow bridge opening. Great connection across to Ardern St station. Observed between WWE and Moonee Ponds creek on west side – there's a yellow piece of rubber that needs to be cleaned up.

Q. (DR) M80 heading East. Can the 80km speed limit be started before Boundary Road?

A. (PS) Taken on notice

Q. (DR) Is the project aware of rain pouring out from under layer of asphalt in the bus zone at Millers Road offramp heading east?

A. (PS) Taken on notice

Q. (KR) Regarding the freeway signage issues that have been raised: people will get used to it however when the project is completed will there be a way for issues to be heard?

A. (PS) DTP and TU will look after their respective road networks and take on feedback through the avenues they have available.

(DM) We are already working on a transition plan for enquiries and feedback post opening supporting getting community members questions to the right people.

Q. (BB) Lights at the intersection at Altona gate shopping centre do not provide enough time to get onto the freeway and this is causing cars to back up to Millers Road. Timing is off.

A. (DM) State has spoken previously about the need for the whole network to come online to get the full picture of how the project will impact traffic congestion.

(PS) That interchange is being monitored and adjustments being made. 130+ signals across the network are being actively monitored.

Q. (GM) Paringa Road give way to pedestrian signage is still being missed by some drivers.

A. (DM) Changes have been made at this location including a pedestrian head start and the new signage.

Q. (MB) How did the emergency services testing on veloway go?

A. (MR) Ran in person activities to run different scenarios to ensure appropriate emergency responses were feasible. It was a successful day. We have been running similar exercises across the whole project, including inside the tunnels. An ambulance was able to travel onto the veloway; however, fire trucks will need to enter via the emergency access points or at either end of the veloway.

Q. (AB) Is there a way to stop the public from accessing the veloway during an incident?

A. (MR) Yes but we would try to support the flow of cyclists to continue as much as possible.

Q. (GY) Are Whitehall St/Somerville Rd sewer works completed? If so, please do not shut down Whitehall St access as there have been Hyde St resident complaints regarding the diversion of road trains.

(MB) The project teams are focused on solutions that do not require that detour and it will be avoided wherever possible.

Q. (GY) Millers and Williamstown Road cameras. Save Willy Road is asking why these no truck zone cameras have been installed?

A. (DM) I'll have to take that on notice.

Q. (GY) Noting those cameras, is Transurban advocating against the State truck bans and curfews?

A. (MR) Unaware of the installation of these cameras. Transurban is not advocating one way or the other for curfews or truck zones. This issue is for the Government to review with community and industry. Transurban's role is to support the State to communicate what is coming and help industry to understand. Transurban is focussed on making this project a success and ensure it is operating safely and smoothly.

Q. (GY) Somerville Road service station facing potential closure due to the impact of no truck zones. Asking for this to be reconsidered. Proposed amendment to allow trucks to still refuel using the existing arrangement.

A. (PS) Freight Victoria has been working directly with this operator. There was work done to understand the impact of the truck ban zones. One for Freight Victoria to be made aware of.

DM advised members the final 2025 meeting will be held on 27 November. Intention is to have a final meeting early in 2026 to share reflections and provide final mementos and thank you pieces. It will also be an opportunity to hear directly from members about how the new asset is performing.

KJ noted that a final CLG around February will allow sufficient time to gather feedback post project opening. Highlighted the importance of members sharing their learnings for future CLG project groups.

Meeting close (7:57pm)