

30 September 2024



Meeting Minutes

Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	6/09/2024	Time	10:00am - 12:00pm
Chair	Mike Marasco	Meeting no.	6 of 2024
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Sean Larkin

Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Mike Marasco (MM)	Independent Chair	Bruce Plain (BP)	Community Representative
Mia McMahon (MMc)	Community Engagement Manager, Spark	Frank Freschi (FF)	Community Representative
Hamid Peimany (HP)	Community Engagement Manager, Spark	John Van Delft (JVD)	Community Representative
Milan Dhruve (MD)	Southern Roadworks Project Manager, Spark	Alexander Law (AL)	Community Representative
Deanna Hadid (DH)	Senior Stakeholder and Community Engagement Advisor	Otto Sargent (OS)	Community Representative
Nic Morton (NMo)	Senior Communications & Stakeholder Relations Advisor, NELP	Ros Magee (RM)	Community Representative
Sean Larkin (SLa)	Graduate, Communications & Stakeholder Relations, NELP	Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	Senior Communication & Community Relations Manager, Burke to Tram Alliance (BTA)
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council	Helena Vun (HV)	Graduate, Communications & Stakeholder Relations, MRPV
Leah McGuinness (LM)	Whitehorse City Council	Andrea Bezzina (AB)	Design Coordinator, Symal
Andrew Mangan (AM)	Manningham City Council	Shaun Leane MP (SL)	Member of Parliament
Michael Hobbs (MH)	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Manager, NELP		

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Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Joe Carbone (JC)	Community Representative	Glenny Jones (GJ)	Community Representative
Sam Doyle (SD)	Interface Engagement Manager, NELP	Nic Moore (NM)	Community Representative
Judith Voce (JV)	Community Representative		

Agenda

Agenda	Lead
Welcome, minutes & outstanding business	Mike Marasco (MM)
North East Link	Milan Dhruve (MD)
- Tunnel construction update	Deanna Hadid (DH)
- Bridge Street - works reminder	Mia McMahan (MMc)
- TBMs Update	Hamid Peimany (HP)
- Environment Update	
- Community engagement update	
Eastern Freeway	Jamie Ledwidge (JL)
- What's coming up	Andrea Bezzina (AB)
- Community engagement update	
- UDLP overview	
North East Community Fund	Nic Morton (NM)
Other Business	Mike Marasco (MM)

Actions – Short Term

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 4-1	Provide progress update to FF on investigation to adjust road signs	MH	06/09/24	OPEN	Update provided. Provide next update at meeting on 22/10.
SC24 5-1	Provide a construction milestone for Jan-July 2025	MMc	06/09/2024	CLOSED	Addressed in the Presentation
SC24 5-2	The Yarra Riverkeepers have been given a grant from the NECF to do rehabilitation on the Bolin Bolin Billabong. SD to investigate and provide CD with details on how this relates to the project	SD	06/09/2024	CLOSED	Addressed in the meeting

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 5-3	RH to provide more details to JV on the reasoning behind noise and air quality assessments at the tunnel entrance only being undertaken at certain intervals upon project completion	RH	06/09/2024	CLOSED	Addressed in the meeting
SC24 5-4	RH to investigate fleet optimisation further and come back with more detail for JV	RH	06/09/2024	CLOSED	Addressed in the meeting
SC24 5-5	RH to provide more details to JV, MM and FF on why there are no scrubbers in ventilation structure	RH	06/09/2024	CLOSED	Addressed in the meeting
SC24 5-6	CD raises that the traffic signals on the outbound offramp are sitting low and are difficult for drivers to see. JLe to investigate lifting them	JLe	06/09/2024	CLOSED	Addressed in the meeting
SC24 5-7	JLe to investigate improvements for linemarking on Koonung Creek Trail	JLe	06/09/2024	CLOSED	Addressed in the meeting
SC24 5-8	JLe to investigate flooding from compound onto Koonung Creek Trail	JLe	06/09/2024	OPEN	Update to be provided at next meeting
SC24 5-9	JLe to investigate construction vehicles driving on Koonung Creek Trail	JLe	06/09/2024	OPEN	Update to be provided at next meeting
SC24 5-10	RM expresses discontentment towards lack of action on improving lighting at Burke Road. SD to continue to escalate to DTP, including RM in the conversations, and ensuring it doesn't lag to next SCLG	SD	06/09/2024	OPEN	Ongoing discussions occurring
SC24 5-11	JLe to provide RM updated ETA on long term lighting along freeway alignment	JLe	06/09/2024	OPEN	Update to be provided at next meeting
SC24 5-13	AL enquires about data on incidents and near misses at the freeway entrance site. Asks what is happening in the next 6-12 months. JLe to report back on safety at freeway entrance site and provide an update on this at next SCLG	JLe	06/09/2024	OPEN	Update to be provided
SC24 5-14	CD notes that the floodplain management action has been on the actions list since last year. SD to put an 'updates' section in the future presentations as part of the agenda before each SCLG	SD	06/09/2024	CLOSED	'Updates' section added to minutes template

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 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. A shared path would provide the only safe and direct north bound crossing.	MH to advise once information is available
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	JLe	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	MMc	Presentation to be given when information is available
Q4 2024	14 April 2023	MHi to present further information on managing the flood plain in Freeway package design	MHi	Presentation to be given when information is available

Key discussion points/decisions

Mike Marasco (MM)	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge apologies Previous meetings minutes read and adopted
Nic Morton (NM) Michael Hobbs (MH) Mia McMahon (MMc) Mike Marasco (MM)	<p>Outstanding actions</p> <p>SC24 4-1: MH explains that the height of road signs is regulated by DTP and cannot be altered. However, NELP and Spark are exploring the possibility of lowering the gawk screen height to improve the visibility of the road signs.</p> <p>SC24 5-2: NMo updates that the project has been informed about the Yarra Riverkeepers' planned activities on Sunday, 16 September, and will coordinate with them as needed. However, the event is expected to have minimal impact on the project, as it will use a separate car park and take place on a Sunday.</p> <p>SC24 5-3: NMo updates that air quality will be monitored daily after NEL is opened, and we are currently exploring various methods for reporting this information once the project is complete. Noise results will be measured at 5 year intervals as this exercise aims to capture significant changes in vehicle types and driver behaviour over time, rather than on a regular basis.</p> <p>SC24 5-4: NMo updates that the Government has made a public commitment to reduce the emissions from Government fleet vehicles by increasing the number of zero emissions electric vehicles we operate. This commitment states for 20% of fleet vehicles to be electric by 2026, 50% by 2028 and 100% by 2030.</p> <p>SC24 5-5: NMo updates that a provision is being incorporated into the ventilation structure design for the potential installation of a filtration system if necessary. However, based on air quality modelling predictions, a filtration system will not be required to meet the air quality standards when the tunnel opens. Installing a filtration system now may have negative consequences due to the additional energy required.</p> <p>FF comments that the filtration system will be most critical when the tunnel first opens. At this time, internal combustion engine vehicles will still make up the majority of traffic, producing significant fumes, which will decrease in the future as electric cars become more prevalent.</p> <p>RM asks that if the filtration system needed to be installed at a later date, would the tunnels need to be closed?</p> <p>Action: NMo to investigate and report back to the group on implications of installing a filtration system in future.</p> <p>SC24 5-6: JL updates, regarding raising the height of Bulleen Rd off-ramp lights, Burke to Tram Alliance has raised with the traffic management team to explore whether any additional action can be taken.</p> <p>SC24 5-7: JL presented a list of improvements to be made to Koonung Creek Trail including additional line marking installed near drinking fountain and around bends to encourage riders to slow down.</p> <p>SC24 5-10 MM states that this issue has been referred to the DTP, with DTP responding '<i>Thank you for raising your concerns about the freeway widening between Belford Road and Burke Road. The lights are currently out as they have reached the end of their operational life, we are considering the next most appropriate steps and will provide you with the appropriate update.</i>'</p>

SL comments that he would like to be contacted in future for circumstances such as these and that he will reach out to members of the Government to address the lighting issue.

Mia
McMahon
(MMc)

North East Link

MMc Outlines the agenda and who will present each item.

Milan
Dhruve
(MD)

Tunnel construction update

MD Presented an update on all the major works occurring at the Manningham, Trinity, and Bulleen work sites. The highlights included:

- The construction of the D Walls
- The Manningham TBM box (SEM tunnelling preparation)
- The Trinity Grammar School spoil shed, which is nearing completion
- The Yarra Link Green Bridge preparation work.

Action: AL asked for more in-depth information on the construction of the D-Walls.

MD provided a 9-month works timeline from September 2024 to June 2025.

Mia
McMahon
(MMc)

Bridge Street – works reminder

MMc provided an update on the planned lane closures for Bridge Street, which are scheduled to occur from September through mid-October. Emphasised that both the communication and traffic teams are on standby to address any urgent matters.

RM enquired whether these disruptions will be advertised on television or other mainstream media channels? NM confirmed that the disruptions have been incorporated into the Spring marketing campaign and will be promoted through various channels, including Out of Home (OOH) advertising, YouTube, digital media, and social media. Additionally, local residents will receive updates through email, postcards, and construction updates.

BP expressed the effectiveness of using Variable Message Signs (VMS) as the primary method of communication.

BP and RM claimed that no SMS messages had been sent over the past month regarding upcoming disruptions.

Action: NMo to investigate usage of SMS to update road users of disruptions

Deanna
Hadid (DH)

TBMs update

DH presented an update on the TBMs and progress in the construction of the tunnels. The highlights included updates on the: Winsor Reserve shed, enclosed conveyer belt, precast concrete segments and launch of TBM 'Zelda' with TBM 'Gillian' scheduled to start boring in the coming weeks.

RM asked if a similar shed facility is being built at Trinity. DH confirmed that the acoustic shed at Trinity will be used to facilitate the Roadheader dirt and rock.

NMo provided an update on the chosen names of the TBMs named after local legends. TBM 'Zelda' is named after Zelda D'Aprano AO and TBM 'Gillian' named after Dr. Gillian Opie. Their achievements were discussed with the group.

FF asks what will happen to the TBMS once they resurface at the Manningham site. DH explains some parts of the TBMs will be scrapped due to wear and tear whilst other elements that can be re-used will be re-purposed for other projects.

FF asks if the 44,000 TBM concrete segments get transported through the tunnel as the TBM bores? DH confirms.

Mia
McMahon
(MMc)

Environment update

MMc provided an update on the River Red Gum tree, detailing efforts to preserve it, monitor its health, and safely relocate any wildlife inhabiting it.

RM asks what will happen if the River Red Gum tree dies?

HM states whilst every effort is being made to preserve the tree, to prepare for such a scenario, seedlings from the River Red Gum tree are being propagated off-site. Up to 50 new trees are being planted from these seedlings to ensure continuity.

Hamid
Peimany
(HP)

Community engagement (NEL)

HP provided an update on the following topics regarding community engagement.

- Community interactions that have occurred
- Support for local traders and non-profit organisations such as Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA)
- Recent activities including the Manningham council site visit and the international Women's group presentation
- Highlight upcoming community events.

RM asks about how many complaints are still outstanding? HP states that all have been closed

SL Reiterates the great work being done at these community groups, including Ajani and requests that the project continues to look for more opportunities to support them.

LM requests if the Community Liaison Group (CLG) can receive another site visit

Action: MMc to investigate if another site visit can be arranged

Jaimie
Ledwidge
(JL)

Eastern Freeway

JL provided a high-level overview of the major works occurring on the Eastern Freeway from September to October, including:

- Eastern Freeway centre median
- Bulleen interchange (both north and south of the freeway)
- Koonung Creek Reserve site
- Improvements to the Koonung Creek trail
- Sentinel relocation
- Removal of the noise walls.

RM Inquired about the length of the impact on local residents once the current noise walls are removed. JL States temporary noise walls will be installed prior to the removal of the existing noise walls to mitigate impacts on local residents where practicable.

OS Asked if dates were available for the on-ramp bus stop closure. JL Noted that residents will be informed as soon as the date becomes available.

FF asked will detours and disruptions along the Koonung Creek trail continue? JL confirmed detours and disruptions will persist as needed, with efforts made to prioritise pedestrian access and minimise impacts on the trail.

CD Reported that residents' satisfaction has improved since mitigation methods started along the Koonung Creek Trail.

Andrea
Bezzina
(AB)

Community engagement update (Eastern Freeway)

JL updated on key achievements relating to community engagement, including;

- 380 trees provided to residents
- Information sessions held with sports clubs at Elgar Park
- 200 visits to the Project Information Centre
- Most common inbound interactions relate to noise, environmental matters and disruptions.

FF Highlighted a high number of community members end up with damaged vehicles when driving through work areas on the Eastern Freeway and believe that these damages are related to drivers speeding.

FF, AL and RM What plan of action can be put in place to ensure that drivers maintain the speed limit along the Eastern Freeway when driving through construction areas? OS commented that early construction may not be the time to fine people while people adjust to changed conditions.

JL Stated that they have had conversations with highway patrol however, noted that it is difficult to police due to the lack of safe observation points for police. Will investigate further with Victoria Police.

Andrea
Bosina (AB)

UDLP overview

AB Provided an update on the Doncaster Park and Ride project and addressed key concerns including:

Pedestrian Access: Designated crossing areas will ensure pedestrians can safely cross bus lanes.

Car Parking: An additional 30 car parking spaces will be added.

Entry Points: Buses and cars will share entry points until cars enter the parking area, after which buses will continue forward.

Pedestrian Access Points: Pedestrians can access the facility via the car drop-off area or the Koonung Creek Trail.

Accessibility: The design complies with DSAP disability requirements.

Signalised Crossings: Pedestrian crossings will be signalised.

EV Charging Stations: Provisions for electric vehicle charging stations are included in the design.

CD wants to understand where the amenities will be located in the Doncaster Park and Ride (Eg. Vending machines, ticket machines, bins drinking fountains ect) to ensure there is a place for them? AB Stated this will be decided later, with the initial design being a high-level overview.

Action: JVD, what time will vehicles be allowed to park in the drop and go zone for?

Action: JVD how many drop and go parking spaces will there be?

LC Asked why are there only 30 additional parking spaces being created? AB Explained that a new park and ride with 400 spaces has been developed at Bulleen. This will provide nearby residents with two options and help reduce demand at Doncaster.

Action: FF Wants to know what the height, length and width dimensions of Doncaster Bridge?

The group discussed and suggested improvements to the UDLP design. AB Thanked the group for their feedback and requested that all comments be submitted via Engagement Victoria so their feedback is heard about the UDLP design.

Nic Morton
(NM)

North East Community Fund

NMo reminded the group Round 3 of the community fund is now open for applications. Highlighted that workshops have taken place to educate and guide individuals through the grant application process.

LC asks how many applicants were received from Whitehorse Council LGA for the community grant.

Action: NMo to investigate applications received from the Whitehorse LGA area

Mike
Marasco
(MM)

Other Business

CD asks what dates will the Southern Eastern Freeway UDLP be approved?

MH responds that the date is yet to be confirmed but likely before October.

Action: OS asks if a meeting can be scheduled upon the completion of the Doncaster Park and Ride UDLP to include a PTV representative and other key stakeholders. MH advised he will invite PTV rep/key stakeholders to attend, depending on availability

MM informs of the next meeting on 18/10/2024

MM closed the meeting.

Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 6-1	provide AL more in-depth information on the construction of the D-Walls	MMc	18/10/2024	OPEN	
SC24 6-2	NM to Investigate the frequency of SMS usage to update road users of upcoming disruptions	NMo	18/10/2024	OPEN	
SC24 6-3	MM to investigate if another site visit can be arranged for SCLG	MMc	18/10/2024	OPEN	
SC24 6-4	JVD wants to know What length of time will vehicles be allowed to park in the drop and go zone for?	HV	18/10/2024	OPEN	
SC24 6-5	JVD How many drop and go parking spaces will there be	HV	18/10/2024	OPEN	
SC24 6-6	FF Wants to know what the height, length and width	HV	18/10/2024	OPEN	

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
	dimensions of Doncaster Bridge?				
SC24 6-7	To investigate for LC the amount of community funds application received from the Whitehorse LGA area	NMo	18/10/2024	OPEN	
SC24 6-8	If a meeting can be scheduled upon the completion of the Doncaster Park and Ride UDL to include a PTV representative	MH	TBC	OPEN	
SC24 6-9	NM to investigate and report back to the group on implications of installing a filtration system in future.	NMo	18/10/2024	OPEN	