

Minutes

Subject: September Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 7 September 2023

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Location: WGTP Information Centre

Apologies: Peter Gerrand, Eloise McGurn, Glen Yates, Tim Spawton, Ferdinand Saliba, Adrian Ashford, Claude Manno, Andrew Shepherd, Ebru Saglam, Ashleigh Simpson, Lachlan Sturt, Melanie Ryan.

Attendees

Chair	Group/Association Members
(KJ) Kim Jordan	(GB) Garry Brennan, Bike Network Victoria
Community Members	(GM) Geoff Mitchelmore, Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek
(AB) Arthur Bregiannis, Yarraville	(SW) Steve Wilson, Friends of Stony Creek
(BB) Bert Boere, Brooklyn	MTIA Representatives
(MDL) Marlon De Leon, Tarneit	(SDR) Shane D'Rozario, West Gate Tunnel Project, Major Transport Infrastructure Authority (WGTP MTIA)
(DR) Dennis Ryan, Altona North	(LE) Liz Evans, WGTP MTIA
(CF) Con Frescos, Yarraville	(DM) Douglas Morris, WGTP MTIA
(FA) Fran Araneda, Kensington	(CA) Cyrus Alorro, WGTP MTIA
(KR) Kevin Redfern, Seabrook	(HT) Harley Thomas, WGTP MTIA
(PT) Pradeep Tiwari, Footscray	Transurban Representatives
(IE) Ilona Elmore, Spotswood	(PS) Prateek Shrestha, Transurban
Council Members	(KN) Kathryn Norton, Transurban
(AH) Adrian Havryluk, Maribyrnong City Council	(SF) Scott Frazer, Transurban
(IB) Ian Butterworth, Hobsons Bay City Council	Joint Venture Representatives
(NH) Neil Hutchinson, City of Melbourne	(MU) Mario Urban, CPBJH JV
	(CD) Christian Dolezal, CPBJH JV
	(LS) Lee Szalnowski, CPBJH JV

Agenda Items

Time	#	Item detail	Owner
5.30pm	1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair
5.40pm	2	WGTP MTIA updates	WGTP MTIA
5.50pm	3	Construction update	CPBJH JV
6:20pm	4	Actions Update	All
6:45pm	5	BREAK	All
7:00pm	6	Member questions	Community members

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7.30pm	7	Meeting end	Chair
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Introduction

- (KJ) Gave an Acknowledgement of Country.
- (KJ) Welcomed attendees in person and online and stated apologies for the night. Welcomed two new members to the CLG, Ilona Elmore who is representing Spotswood and Pradeep Tiwari who is representing Footscray.
- (PT) Introduced himself, highlighted he is President of West Footscray Traders Association, works closely with local council, and looks forward to working with the group.
- (IE) Introduced herself, as a resident of The Avenue in Spotswood, who has been in the advocacy space of the project for a long time and looks forward to engaging in the forum.

WGTP MTIA update

Grants and Partnerships

- (DM) Update provided on Grants and Partnerships. Applications for the most recent round of the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund closed on 1 August, with 102 applications received. There has been an extensive review and assessment period over the last few weeks. Aiming to have announcements of successful applicants in October.
- Existing projects are travelling well with many milestones being reached for the local communities.
- On Friday 18 August a very successful event ‘Youth Fest in the West’ was held, which was funded by the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund and run by the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation. The event raised awareness for mental health and wellbeing support for youth and had a range of stalls and information including West Gate Tunnel Project ran by MTIA. Attendees included Footscray MP Katie Hall and former Western Bulldogs premiership player and Lifeline Australia ambassador Tom Boyd.

Community Outreach

- (DM) Update provided on recent community outreach. The project held an information stall at Altona Gate shopping centre across four days between Thursday 3 August and Sunday 6 August, speaking with nearly 300 local residents about all aspects of the project.
- 4 Pop ups relating to the new 50 m high ventilation structure construction at the Southern Outbound Portal on the West Gate Freeway were held at Vernon Street, Fogarty Avenue, Footscray Hockey Club, and the Avenue.
- A Footscray Road Community open day was held at the WGTP Info Centre on Saturday 2 September, which allowed community members to get an exclusive look at East Zone works as part of eight bus tours that ran from the info centre.
- The event was very successful with the 400 tickets on offer sold out within 5 days and many more community members requesting future tours.
- A reminder to members that there is a tour of the Maribyrnong River bridges being held on Thursday 14 September at 4pm.

Construction Update

West Zone

- (MU) Update provided on recent engagement in the west zone. A Pop Up will be held at Spotswood Station, to talk to commuters about the upcoming works on Hall Street including parking changes in the area. Engagement with businesses in this area is also underway.

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- (LS) Provided an update on the west zone. New beams, hand railing and new distinctive green railing have been installed on the Hyde Street ramps over Williamstown Road. The new walking and cycling path bridge is clearly visible now and will connect Fogarty Avenue to the northern Hyde Street ramp.
- Finishing touches are being made to the Hyde Street on ramp to the West Gate Freeway. Last beams have landed at Stony Creek bridge, with concrete works, and hand railing, to be completed next. Landscapers will move into the area around once the site is cleaned up.
- **Q:** (SW) Is the green railing permanent?
- **A:** (LS) Yes, it is and the green theme for walking and cycling paths is part of the architectural design for the project.
- Kororoit Creek walking and cycling path has 80% of the concrete surfacing finished with works ongoing to complete the northern connection. These works are to be complete over the next few weeks for an opening in late September/Early October.
- The stairs for the Muir Street pedestrian bridge are open on both the north and south side. The Rosala Avenue pedestrian bridge stairs is open on the north staircase with the south side stairs to open soon.
- 12 sign gantries have been installed so far on the West Gate Freeway and Princes Freeway. Full overnight freeway closures will be required to install some gantries due to the size, with some structures being over 80m in length
- 6 new orange feature light poles have been installed at M80 interchange, adjacent to the Princes Freeway outbound ramp from West Gate Freeway and the Geelong Road ramp onto Princes Freeway. 16 of these feature light poles will be installed in that corridor. These also form part of the architectural design of the project.

West zone questions

- **Q:** (IL) The new toll gantry on the freeway near Kyle Road, is that for people who will be using the tunnel?
- **A:** (KN) As people enter and exit the tunnel, they will be tolled at that point.
- **Q:** (DR) Is there still a single lane coming from Princes Freeway inbound? And for how long?
- **A:** (LS) Yes, still a single lane. This will eventually be part of the express lanes to the West Gate Bridge, reason for the split is to allow space for cranes to work and to install gantries. This single lane will be in place until next year.

East Zone

- (MU) Update on east zone engagement. During the major Dynon Road campaign over the last few months, residents affected by works were offered respite, including temporary relocation, noise cancelling headphones, white noise machines, vouchers.
- Businesses impacted by the Dynon Road campaign were also supported through voucher purchases, social media campaigns and regular health checks.
- Business and stakeholder engagement has begun for the upcoming Wurundjeri Way campaign set to occur between October and December.
- Pop ups took place on the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail, to inform cyclists of path closures between Thursday 31 August and Saturday 2 September and on Tuesday 5 September.
- (MU) Construction update on east zone works. The launching gantry has landed its last span on the elevated road above Footscray Road, completing its work in the area. The gantry will be dismantled over the coming months.

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- Girders over CityLink have been installed, which form the new connections from the elevated road to CityLink. These lifts involved overnight closures of CityLink on Friday 1 September and Saturday 2 September.
- Steel girders have been installed over the entrance into the Port of Melbourne at Appleton Dock Road. These beam lifts occurred overnight on 11 August and 12 August.
- Final girders to connect the Maribyrnong River bridges to the elevated road above Footscray Road were installed on the nights of Thursday September 7 and Friday September 8. These were lifted by a 1600 tonne crane, one of the largest in the southern hemisphere.
- Wurundjeri Way and Dudley Street will be closed to traffic from October through to December. This will allow construction to commence on the brand-new bridge where cranes will lift multiple steel beams over the Dudley Street intersection to build the extension.
- Dynon Road reopened on the morning of 31 August to drivers. A new dedicated walking and cycling path has been installed alongside Dynon Road, with 4 segments of this bridge being lifted in during the recent closure and 8 being installed without the need to close the road. There are additional works such as surfacing and handrailing to be finalised on this new path before it will open later this year.
- The bridge over the rail lines was also widened and strengthened to cater for extra traffic volumes. There is still some work remaining at Dynon Road requiring intermittent closures.

Tunnel zone

- (CD) Touched on engagement activities for the Tunnels Zone namely the recent Ventilation Structure engagement pop ups. Business engagement with local traders is ongoing, with WGTP Worker parking in Youell Street being an issue. Project is continuing to work with businesses in the area and sequence works.
- Cross passage excavation is set to resume after work was halted due to the recent earth movement in the outbound tunnel. 8 out of 21 of these passages have been built.
- The Road deck in the outbound tunnel is now 95% complete, and the inbound tunnel road deck is around 80% complete. Both road decks will be complete in the coming months.
- Disassembly of Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Vida is complete at the inbound portal. At the outbound tunnel portal, the cutterhead of TBM Bella has been moved into its final resting position where it will be filled with concrete and buried. Work will soon start to build the road deck from the freeway into the tunnel.
- The ventilation structure at the Outbound Portal is approximately 20 percent complete (12.55m). In November the ventilation structure will reach 40 metres high.
- Timber net structures will be shipped in coming weeks from Auckland to Melbourne. Assembly of the eel net structure at the southern inbound portal is set to begin in November 2023.

Actions update

Action: CPBJH to confirm total number of trees to be replaced and removed.

- (KN) Still being worked through with final KN numbers and locations of where trees can be replaced. Action to remain open.

Action: CPBJH / TU to follow up an earlier than end 2023 reopening of Federation Trail between Millers Road and Fogarty Avenue

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- (DM) This action was spoken through extensively last meeting. There is still work to be complete in the area. All project parties working towards a solution.

Action: CPBJH / TU to provide an update on the maintenance program for graffiti during construction.

- (LS) The graffiti removal program has commenced. Around Fogarty Avenue, a lot of graffiti has now been removed and work will continue in strategic locations around the project to minimise traffic disruptions. Anti-graffiti coating is still being applied on concrete structures.

Informal Actions

- Q: (KJ) Is there an update on the indigenous garden at Kororoit Creek?
- A: (KN) Still working through final details with a new location proposed north of the Grieve Parade overpass. The project parties are required to engage with traditional owners and with Council and Friends of Kororoit Creek on a revised design package to move away from the original proposed location near the Bluestone Bridge..
- (GM) Indigenous Garden location needs to be sorted, have been waiting for a long time for it, and good to see Kororoit Creek Path will be open soon.
- Q: (GM) What is the future plan for Millers Road between Millers and Geelong Road? Can we get a report on what is going on there?
- A: (SD) Will get an update from DTP for current status and future of the area.

Break (6:45PM)

Paringa Road Update

KJ passed to SD to provide an update to Paringa Road

- (SD) Resurfacing is complete on the Millers Road interchange, with a further, 'grey' surface treatment to be installed at Paringa Road. WGTP and DTP are exploring yellow surface treatment option at the pedestrian crossing as well as giving pedestrians a head start before traffic starts to turn onto the Millers Road outbound on ramp.
- Potential to put 'Give way to pedestrians' sign on the southern corner as well as the existing sign in place already on the north side.
- Will keep monitoring the situation and keep GM and BB informed on changes.

Member questions and comments

Comments

- **Comment:** (FA) Noted concerns around noise during the Dynon Road campaign.
- **Comment:** (CF) Is in contact with LE and Emily Alvis from MTIA regarding grants and also noted a significant improvement in work sites being cleaned up.
- **Comment:** (GM) New section of Kororoit Creek is looking good, looking forward to an opening soon. Thanked LS for this work. Will be a major asset for the west. Offset tree planting set to occur along Federation trail. Thanked SD for talking through Paringa Road.

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- **Comment:** (IB) Pleased to hear about consultation around the upcoming works on the Hall Street walking and cycling path and car park issues
- **Comment:** (GB) Flood warning system at Moonee Ponds Creek trail is a good outcome for that area, especially with the upcoming detour where cyclists will be using the path regularly. There is an existing small detour in place for when the Footscray Road SUP is closed, and Moonee Ponds Creek Trail is flooded.
- (KN) There is a VMS system in place, which monitors rain levels and will trigger a warning if water gets too high. KN thanked Eloise from City of Melbourne for her involvement in this matter.
- **Comment:** (AB) The Avenue slip lane onto Williamstown Road continues to be an issue where cars exiting are crossing multiple lanes to access the freeway. Witnessed an issue on Thursday 7 September where a car from the slip lane almost collided with another vehicle.

Questions

- **Q:** (DR) Awaiting to see a traffic report from EES. Did this report consider new residential developments? Can I get a copy of this report?
- **A:** (LE) Will take as informal action. Forward traffic modelling including new housing and residential developments, such as Precinct 15 off Blackshaws Road. MTIA is happy to provide report.
- (SD) There will be a period of monitoring the network after the project opens. There will be work undertaken to check that signal timings are working and that the project is handling traffic numbers that are using the new assets.
- **Q:** (AH) Landscaping around northern portal, is there a timeline?
- **A:** (CD) No timeline in place yet
- **Q:** (SW) How are works going at Kororoit Creek Road?
- **A:** (LS) Moved to new sub-contractor for works. Hoping to start work come end of October and finish by the end of the year.
- **Q:** (AB) What is the issue with Blackshaws Road as a cycle detour route?
- **A:** (BB) Cyclists won't use it due to too much traffic and interface with new development sites.
- **Q:** (SW) At Stony Creek reserve, can the landscaping plans for this area be shared? Friends group are keen to know the style of planting will match in with the current informal/bush style.
- **A:** (LS) Topsoil and mulch to go in around November, and program will continue from that point. Taken as an informal follow up around the design of the area, happy to provide design plan to Friends of Stony Creek Reserve group.
- **Q:** (AB) Are extra lanes being opened on the Williamstown Road inbound ramp this month?
- **A:** (LS) There is work still to go on in the area, more work to happen around September and October. Next phase will involve reopening the ramp. Final line marking targeted for December. Idea is to have 3 lanes onto the ramp, which merge into 2 lanes.

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- (SD) Ramp meters will need to be installed. Works may be complete on the ramp, however until the systems and ramp meters are in place, the ramp likely won't function in its ultimate configuration.
- **Q:** (FA) Horseshoe bend bridge, are there any further updates?
- **A:** (SD) No update, still working through changes, there is no opposition to the design change as long as other matters are resolved.

Meeting close (7:20PM)

- (KJ) Closed the meeting by thanking members in person and online. Also thanked new caterers Maznik for providing food for members.
- (KJ) Confirmed the next meeting is in six weeks' time on Thursday 19 October 2023.

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