

# Meeting Minutes

## Northern Business Liaison Group (NBLG)

Date	4/11/2021	Time	7:30 -9:30am
Chair	Jeni Coutts	Meeting no.	6
Location	Online (Zoom)	Minute taker	Nic Morton

## Attendees

Attendees		Apologies	
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jeni Coutts (JC)	Independent Chair		
Noella Jacobs (NJ)	Greensborough Chamber of Commerce		
Tony Aouad (TA)	Kebab Nation & Anchor Fish & Chips		
Matt Guest (MG)	Watsonia RSL		
Jeremy Richards (JR)	Watsonia Optical		
Sarah Maguire (SM)	Watsonia Traders Association		
Erica Hardie (EH)	Banyule City Council		
Danielle Phyland (DP)	Nillumbik Shire Council		
Michael Caink (MC)	NELP		
Conor Kiernan (KC)	NELP		
Toni Clark (TC)	NELP		
Chris Woodroffe (CW)	NELP		
Bill Himonas (BH)	NELP		
Nic Morton (NM)	NELP		

## Key discussion points/decisions

Owner	Action
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Outstanding Business</b></p> <p>JC outlined the agenda and introduced MC, CK and EH to the group. There are no outstanding items or actions as a meeting was held last week.</p>
Michael Caink (MC), Conor Kiernan (CK)	<p><b>Release of NELP design</b></p> <p>MC outlined the two-year PPP procurement process undertaken to distinguish the tunnelling works from the project as a whole.</p> <p>Spark consortium has been chosen for the PPP works and includes a number of companies that will work together to design, construct, and deliver the tunnel. Spark was chosen mainly due to its longer tunnel design, which has less disruptions and simplified ramp locations. Urban design outcomes are a major focus of the design and align with community expectations including elements such as the Yarra Land Bridge, Greensborough Road boulevard, and ventilation systems that blend into the environment. A video of the project will be attached to the Minutes.</p> <p>An explanation of how the various Project packages have been divided up was provided by MC. Each of these packages will be subject to their own procurement process in the coming months.</p> <p>The Group was shown a series of artist impressions of options for the Watsonia Precinct, the Lower Plenty Interchange and Borlase Reserve. The options included ways in which local travel can be simplified and made more efficient; bike path connections into Borlase Reserve and the on-going maintenance of Borlase Reserve by a contractor once works are complete.</p> <p>The Watsonia Precinct design will also compliment the Watsonia Town Square project being undertaken by Banyule City Council.</p> <p>It was noted that the early works activities which have occurred in this area over the past couple of years were undertaken to relocate services allowing the tunnel to be delivered.</p> <p>Tunnel construction will begin in 2022. Many other aspects will be procured separately but will be built and delivered at the same time in 2027/28. Project rebranding has been undertaken to assist with communicating these packages to the community</p> <p>CK outlined the Urban Design Landscape Plan (UDLP) process going forward, which has a heavy focus on community consultation. The Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process was the first instance of this and established design outcomes that need to be met for project approval to be granted. Urban design needs to be consistent across the project. UDLP processes will begin in early 2022 on elements such as parklands, playgrounds, wetlands, walking and cycling paths, bridges, noise walls, and other items. The community will have a chance to comment on these elements in the first half of 2022, before major construction begins.</p> <p>It is expected that Spark will attend our final meeting for the year.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>JR asked if there are any changes to the launch site of the tunnel. MC responded that this has been moved further north and will be less disruptive as spoil can be transported more efficiently to landfill sites.</p> <p>JR asked if any thought had been put into putting the North East Link under the railway, as opposed to over the top and then down into a trench. MC responded that the latest design reduces the trenched length, which will be less disruptive and allow for better connections in the area.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>JR commented that a longer tunnel would have been preferred. MC responded that the latest design is the most optimised version and meets the set criteria.</p> <p>JR asks if the design at Watsonia is finalised, and does this area fall under the procurement of the ring road package. MC stated that this area in Watsonia is a concept design and that further design work needs to be done. There will be opportunities for community input through a UDLP process, which is necessary before planning approval can be granted from the Minister for Planning.</p> <p>NJ commented that Greensborough shopping centre will be highly impacted, and this area needs to be considered, as it is rarely mentioned in the meetings. CK stated that further design work and procurement needs to be done in the northern package areas. More information will be available once this package goes to market.</p> <p>NJ stated that it is difficult to answer questions from customers and traders when little information is available. CW stated that Ring Road completion works will start in 2024 but reiterated that extensive consultation and procurement will be carried out beforehand.</p> <p>NJ asked if community consultation will occur in shopping centres. CK stated that this is still being worked out but that plans need to be exhibited broadly.</p> <p>JR asked when work is likely to start at the new TBM launch location. MC stated that more design work is needed and that this detail is still a little unclear at this stage. CK stated that some workers will be on site next year but that traders shouldn't be overly impacted for some time.</p>
Erica Hardie (EH)	<p><b>Watsonia Town Square Project</b></p> <p>EH provided background on the Watsonia Town Square Project (WTS) concept. The 'Picture Watsonia' strategic plan for the area was undertaken in 2014 and involved extensive community consultation about the future of Watsonia. The 'Watsonia Concept Plan' was prepared in 2019, a partnership between Banyule City Council (BCC) and NELP. EH explained details of this plan and how it has informed aspects of the North East Link design.</p> <p>EH outlined the Watsonia Town Square project in more detail, which focuses on the Watsonia shopping strip and the roundabout area. NELP is contributing funding for this project on behalf of the State Government. The Project will improve community amenity and provide a shared user trail that will integrate with North East Link upgrades.</p> <p>EH outlined the project timeline and consultation processes that have already occurred with residents and businesses via a community reference group formed to ensure the needs of the community are considered. Lead design consultants were appointed to prepare the concept designs, which are now complete.</p> <p>Next steps involve community consultation, where the designs will be made available online for community input. Two online community information sessions will also be held to support this consultation. Public toilets are included in four concept designs, following strong community feedback so far. A hybrid concept design will then be prepared that adopts elements from all four concept designs.</p> <p>The eight WTS Design Principles that will guide the project to ensure desired outcomes are met include Traffic &amp; Parking, Access, Economic Growth, Local Identity, Amenities, Flexible Spaces, Community, and Sustainability.</p> <p>Each of the four Concept Designs were shown to the Group and the features of each were outlined in detail. The plans for each concept will be available online. It is worth noting that Concept Design #4 'Monopoles' was developed with the community reference group and draws on elements of the other three concept designs.</p> <p>EH explained that a consultation process will run for one month from November 4 - December 4. The 'Shaping Banyule' website is the best place for locals to have their say on the concept</p>

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	<p>designs. Watsonia gift cards will also be given away to encourage community response on the designs.</p> <p>Next steps involve a review of community consultation findings, preparing the preferred design, liaising with reference groups and authorities, and council endorsement</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>JR asked if discussion had occurred with NELP about adding more car parks to the Watsonia station car park. EH responded that these conversations have occurred historically. CW added that the multi-level car park will provide more spots, but that all feedback will be taken on board.</p> <p>MG asked about car parking losses adding that it would be better to have no spots lost. EH stated that the final design chosen will likely draw from a combination of the four concept designs, including car parking elements.</p> <p>JR asked if this project will work in collaboration with North East Link to ensure both projects are compatible. EH stated that the design options have been shared with North East Link and this has informed the concept designs currently on display.</p>
Jeni Coutts (JC)	<p><b>Other business</b></p> <p>No other business to discuss</p>

## Actions and issues arising

Refer to Actions and Issues Register (Appendix B)