

30 October 2024



# Meeting Minutes

## Southern Community Liaison Group

Date	18/10/2024	Time	10:00am - 12:00pm
Chair	Mike Marasco	Meeting no.	7 of 2024
Location	Veneto Club	Minute taker	Sean Larkin

## Attendees

Attendees			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Mike Marasco (MM)	Independent Chair	Judith Voce (JV)	Community Representative
Beau Vilder (BV)	SEM Project Manager, Spark	Frank Freschi (FF)	Community Representative
Mike Lowrie (ML)	Head of Delivery, Symal	Nic Moore (NM)	Community Representative
Ivan Zarezkij (IZ)	Senior Community Engagement Advisor, Spark	Glennys Jones (GJ)	Community Representative
Steve Bryson (SB)	Deputy Director, Industry Capability and Inclusion, MRPV	Bec Stewart (BS)	Community Engagement Advisor, Spark
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 (EBTA)
Clare Davey (CD)	Boroondara City Council	Helena Vun (HV)	Advisor Communications & Stakeholder Relations, MRPV
Joe Carbone (JC)	Community Representative	Caroline Barker (CB)	Community Engagement Coordinator, Spark
Connor Curtin (CC)	Manningham Council	Hamid Peimany (HP)	Community Engagement Advisor, Spark
Michael Hobbs (MH)	Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Manager, NELP	Alexandra Denning (AD)	Senior Advisor, Industry Capability and Inclusion, MRPV

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Apologies			
Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Sam Doyle (SD)	Interface Engagement Manager, NELP	Bruce Plain (BP)	Community Representative
John Van Delft (JV)	Community Representative	Otto Sargent (OS)	Community Representative
Alexander Law (AL)	Community Representative	Andrew Mangan (AM)	Manningham City Council
Shaun Leane MP (SL)	Member of Parliament	Mia McMahan (MMc)	Community Engagement Manager, Spark
Leah McGuinness (LM)	Whitehorse City Council		

## Agenda

Agenda	Lead
Welcome, minutes & outstanding business	Mike Marasco (MM)
Industry Capability and Inclusion at NELP	Steve Bryson (SB) Alexandra Denning (AD)
North East Link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tunnel construction update</li> <li>- Bridge Street and Manningham Road lane closures</li> <li>- Environment Update</li> </ul> Community engagement update	Hamid Peimany (HP) Beau Vidler (BD)
Eastern Freeway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What's coming up</li> <li>- Community engagement update</li> </ul> UDLP overview	Jamie Ledwidge (JL) Mike Lowrie (ML) Michael Hobbs (MH)
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	18/10/2024	CLOSED	Update provided.
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	18/10/2024	OPEN	MM advised that following our last meeting, Shaun Leane had raised the matter with the relevant Minister
SC24 6-1	Provide AL more in-depth information on the construction of the D-Walls	HP	18/10/2024	CLOSED	Update Provided

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SC24 6-2	NM to Investigate the frequency of SMS usage to update road users of upcoming disruptions	NMo	18/10/2024	OPEN	Update Provided
SC24 6-3	MM to investigate if another site visit can be arranged for SCLG	NMo	18/10/2024	CLOSED	Update Provided
SC24 6-4	JVD wants to know What length of time will vehicles be allowed to park in the drop and go zone for?	JLe	18/10/2024	CLOSED	Update Provided
SC24 6-5	JVD How many drop and go parking spaces will there be	JLe	18/10/2024	CLOSED	Update Provided
SC24 6-6	FF Wants to know what the height, length and width dimensions of Doncaster Bridge?	JLe	18/10/2024	CLOSED	Update Provided
SC24 6-7	To investigate for LC the amount of community funds application received from the Whitehorse LGA area	NMo	18/10/2024	CLOSED	Update Provided
SC24 6-9	NM to investigate and report back to the group on implications of installing a filtration system in future. from the Whitehorse LGA area	JLe	18/10/2024	CLOSED	Update Provided

## 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	MH to advise once information is available

No	Owner	Topic	Status
		significantly delayed by at least 8 call buttons. 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	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
SC24 6-8	MH	GJ requests if a meeting can be scheduled upon the completion of the Doncaster Park and Ride UDL to include a PTV representative.	Pending Doncaster Park and Ride approval

## 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 – Re-raised 18/10/2024	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

Owner	Action
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p><b>Welcome and introductions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledged apologies</li> <li>Previous meeting minutes read and adopted</li> </ul> <p>JV notes that in the minutes, action 5-4 was closed but did not respond to the question being asked. JV requests information about if speed limits can be dropped for all vehicles to limit emissions.</p> <p><b>Action: NMo to investigate if speed limits can be reduced on the project to limit emissions.</b></p> <p>GJ discusses follow up question regarding parking times in the drop and go zone.</p> <p><b>Action: JLe to investigate legal requirement for disabled car park space parking times.</b></p>
Frank Freschi (FF)	<p><b><u>FF Key discussion points</u></b></p> <p>FF passing on concerns raised from teachers of Belle Vue Primary School about the effects of ongoing major construction near the school regarding dust, noise and vibration.</p> <p>JLe notes that the project has not received complaints of this nature from the school and outlined the measures implemented to mitigate the impact on Belle Vue Primary School, including:</p>

Owner	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly meetings with the school principal to address concerns</li> <li>• Continuous monitoring of noise, dust, and vibration levels to ensure they remain within acceptable limits</li> <li>• Pop-up sessions during pick-up times to engage with parents</li> <li>• Planned excursions for students to observe construction sites and participate in road safety sessions</li> </ul> <p>JLe also noted that Belle Vue Primary has recorded its highest prep enrolment for the 2025 intake.</p> <p><b>Action: GJ requests research on the effects of sustained noise levels on student education and potential mitigation options available, such as noise-cancelling headphones.</b></p>
Steve Bryson (SB) Alexandra Denning (AD)	<p><b><u>Industry Capability and Inclusion at North East Link</u></b></p> <p>Update provided as per presentation.</p> <p>GJ asked if NEL has considered utilizing Specialisterne Australia to help recruit more neuro diverse individuals for the project.</p> <p>AD responded that, at present, NEL has not engaged Specialisterne's services, as other processes are being used to recruit neuro diverse individuals for the project at present. However, we will take this suggestion into account and explore the possibility of collaborating with Specialisterne for future recruitment efforts.</p>
Hamid Peimany (HP)	<p><b><u>North East Link</u></b></p> <p>Update provided as per presentation.</p>
Beau Vidler (BV) Hamid Peimany (HP)	<p><b><u>Tunnel construction update</u></b></p> <p>Update provided as per presentation.</p> <p>NM asks if the roadheaders operated 24/7 BV responds that at some stages the road headers will operate 24/7 but that this is not happening currently.</p> <p>NM asks how if there has been noise impacts since the road headers started digging. BV responds that noise levels are within the required EPA levels.</p> <p>HP provides further in-depth information addressing the action of what is a D-Wall addressing action SC24 6-1.</p>
Hamid Peimany (HP)	<p><b><u>Bridge Street and Manningham Road lane closures</u></b></p> <p>Update provided as per presentation.</p> <p>GJ notes that incorporating sticker arrows on the wayfinding posters would be beneficial for orienting the signs correctly, helping individuals locate the businesses or schools they are heading towards. NMo acknowledged that this is a good idea and will consider this option as we continue to make adjustments to signage in the area.</p>

Owner	Action
	JV requests a site tour to see construction progress in the north part of the project. NMo informed that a group tour is scheduled for December; however, it will only cover the southern construction areas and not the entire NEL project. The project will look to schedule a north tour for the SCLG next year.
Hamid Peimany (HP)	<p data-bbox="331 331 1433 365"><b><u>Environment update</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="331 387 1433 421">Update provided as per presentation.</p> <p data-bbox="331 454 1433 555">NM asked whether the project has accounted any deer on site. BV confirmed that deer and kangaroos are occasionally spotted near the construction areas and that appropriate processes are followed when such encounters occur.</p>
Hamid Peimany (HP)	<p data-bbox="331 577 1433 611"><b><u>Community engagement (NEL)</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="331 633 1433 667">Update provided as per presentation.</p> <p data-bbox="331 701 1433 757">RM asked how many of the complaints received have been resolved. HP responded that all of them have been closed out.</p> <p data-bbox="331 790 1433 869">NMo stated that the project team participated in the Royal Melbourne Show last month under the Victorian Big Build banner.</p>
Jaimie Ledwidge (JL)	<p data-bbox="331 891 1433 925"><b><u>Eastern Freeway</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="331 925 1433 947">Update provided as per presentation.</p>
Mike Lowrie (ML)	<p data-bbox="331 981 1433 1014"><b><u>Construction Update</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="331 1037 1433 1070">Update provided as per presentation.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1104 1433 1261">RM stated that residents from Koonung Creek are in the process of creating a petition regarding the work occurring along the Koonung Creek Trail and the shared user paths. JL and MH mentioned they have not heard about this petition or significant dissatisfaction from locals. They also recently conducted a walk-through with Boroondara Council to address any concerns about the Koonung Creek Trail arrangements.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1294 1433 1417">RM requested clarification on the contractual boundary between the Central Package contract and the Eastern Freeway Package upgrade contracts. ML highlighted that this boundary is approximately located around the Carey and Marcellin sporting grounds; however, processes are in place to coordinate effectively between the two contracts.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1451 1433 1552">CD noted that Koonung Creek serves as the boundary between Manningham and Boroondara Councils. She inquired about who would be responsible for the paperwork to redraw the council boundaries following the diversion of Koonung Creek.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1585 1433 1641"><b>Action: Project to investigate Council boundary formalisation following Koonung Creek diversion works.</b></p> <p data-bbox="331 1675 1433 1731">GJ raised a concern about what appears to be a pop-up bike lane near the Bulleen Road bridge, asking for clarification on its purpose, as it has caused confusion for cyclists.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1765 1433 1832">JLe suggested that this may be related to preparations for a closure of a shared user footpath but will investigate further.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1865 1433 1899"><b>Action: JLe to investigate the purpose of the pop up bike lane near the Bulleen Road Bridge.</b></p>

Owner	Action
	<p>GJ also expressed concern about the Koonung Creek Diversion, noting that the shared user path diversion onto Winfield Road is currently unsafe for cyclists and requested that parking be limited to one side of the road to improve safety.</p>
	<p><b>Action: JLe to investigate safety measures for cyclists on the shared path diversion onto Winfield Road.</b></p>
<p>Jamie Ledwidge (JL)</p>	<p><b><u>Changes to shared user paths</u></b></p> <p>Update provided as per presentation.</p> <p>CD noted that the traffic team responsible for designing these diversions has been fantastic to work with and has been engaging well with the local community.</p>
<p>Jamie Ledwidge (JL)</p>	<p><b><u>Community and Business engagement update (Eastern Freeway)</u></b></p> <p>Update provided as per presentation.</p> <p>JV stated that the amount of vegetation removed along the Koonung Creek Trail has been significantly noticeable and requested to see the vegetation replanting plan developed in collaboration with the local council. MH responds that the UDLP online contains information on this including a full tree species list to be replanted.</p> <p>JV asks if there are any initiatives we can implement to promote the growth and replanting of vegetation in other areas as soon as possible to benefit the local community due to the loss of vegetation. JLe responded that once works are completed in a specific area, the land will be returned to the local community with replanted vegetation; however, noting that it will take time for this vegetation to grow.</p> <p>RM asked about improving the area's appearance along the Koonung Creek Trail, suggesting the inclusion of a green vegetation wall could be beneficial. JLe confirmed that they are working on a design in collaboration with the local community for an artwork installation on the hoarding to enhance the scenery along the Koonung Creek Trail, particularly around key meeting places on the trail.</p>
<p>Michael Hobbs (MH)</p>	<p><b><u>UDLP update for Eastern Freeway</u></b></p> <p>Update provided as per presentation.</p> <p>GJ wants to see the design that showcases how the shared user path will be connected to the Painted Tree Hill bridge on the Koonung Creek Trail. MH stated that this information is available on the Victoria Big Build website, where you can see an in-depth visual depiction of the design.</p> <p>GJ wishes to highlight that she is extremely disappointed that there is only one shared user path in the UDLP and that there are no plans for a separate walking path to be included along the Koonung Creek Trail. Noting that this makes it dangerous, as walkers, runners, and cyclists all have to share the same path whilst travelling at various speeds. RM and JV reinforced their disappointment regarding this decision. MH responded by saying they appreciate the feedback and will take it onboard but wish to note that decisions on the design of these paths have taken on various opinions from residents in the area, balanced further impacts to open space, and that there will be several new secondary walking paths in the reserve.</p> <p><b>Action: GJ would like further information provided on the decision to only have one shared user path and not a separate walking and cycling path along the Koonung Creek Trail.</b></p> <p>GJ is keen to highlight the preference for having charging lockers installed along the Koonung Creek Trail so individuals can charge their electric bikes while at work.</p>

Owner	Action
	<p>RM requests further information on where the Sentinel sculpture will be relocated to .</p> <p>JLe stated its current proposed relocation, after working with the council, is to be temporarily relocated at the Doncaster Road and High Street, but will provide further information once available.</p> <p><b>Action: JLe to update group on final location of Sentinel sculpture.</b></p> <p>JC asked how the project communicates with residents about tree removal and what the process is for having them replanted. MH explained that project team members are door-knocking and creating various communication materials to inform residents about what is happening around their properties and the removal of vegetation.</p> <p>GJ requested an update about the space between lookout at the bend on Heyington Avenue Bridge and the shared user path that runs next to it for pedestrian and cyclist safety.</p> <p><b>Action: MH to investigate the space and safety elements at the bend on Heyington Avenue Bridge.</b></p> <p>JC mentioned they were present earlier this week at an engagement meeting with the Manningham United Football Club. The club highlighted that the removal of vegetation along the western side of the field has changed the environment and appearance of the area. The club feels they haven't been listened to so far and would like to have 3 to 4 reasonable items addressed by the North East Link project. MH highlighted that we recently had a meeting with the club to better understand their priorities and are actively working towards solutions for their concerns.</p>
Group	<u>Further comments</u>
	<p>NM states that truck drivers are staging on Thompsons and Doncaster roads until they gain access to the project site. NM highlights the dangers involved with this and photos of these events are shared with the group.</p> <p>JLe mentioned that these are new trucks from a new company that just started on the project staging on Thompsons and Doncaster roads; however, noted they shouldn't be staging along these roads. As such project members will attend pre-start meetings to ensure that truck drivers are well informed of the dedicated staging areas for project trucks and to obtain the new trucks' number plates, so these issues don't occur again in the future.</p> <p>IZ also highlights that there are penalties for truck drivers who do not stage in the designated project areas.</p> <p>RM asks if there is a specific place where trucks can wait. HP confirms that Spark are working on more formalised truck waiting areas.</p> <p><b>Action: NMo to report back to the group on the actions taken to address the issue of truck staging on Thompsons Road.</b></p> <p>RM and MM request that DTP has a representative member attend these meetings going forward to report on issues that aren't directly related to NEL or the Eastern Freeway upgrades team.</p> <p><b>Action: Project to investigate the attendance of a DTP rep at CLG meetings.</b></p> <p>JV also noted that when turning right from Thompsons Road onto the Eastern Freeway (eastbound), the traffic light only provides enough green time for two cars to go through. Why is this the case? MH acknowledges that they have experienced this issue as well and will take the feedback onboard.</p>



Owner	Action
	RM requests a better understanding of the management of the floodplain along the Koonung Creek Trail. JL advised we'd arrange for an Environment Specialist to provide an update at a future meeting regarding flood mitigation.
Mike Marasco (MM)	<p><b><u>Other Business</u></b></p> <p>MM states that this is the last CLG meeting he will chair. The group thanked him for all his efforts.</p> <p>MM updates that Jeni Coutts will be interim chair for the SCLG meetings.</p> <p>The next South Community Liaison Group is scheduled to occur on 29/11/2024.</p> <p>Meeting closed.</p>

## Actions – new

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
SCLG 6-2	MH to follow up with RM to make sure he receives Eastern Freeway disruption updates.	MH	29/11/2024	OPEN	
SC24 7-1	NMo to investigate if speed limits can be reduced on the project to limit emissions.	NMo	29/11/2024	OPEN	
SC24 7-2	JLe to investigate legal requirement for disabled car park space parking times.	JLe	29/11/2024	OPEN	
SC24 7-3	GJ requests research on the effects of sustained noise levels on student education and potential mitigation options available, such as noise-cancelling headphones.	JLe	29/11/2024	OPEN	
SC24 7-4	Project to investigate Council boundary formalisation following Koonung Creek diversion works.	NMo	29/11/2024	OPEN	
SC24 7-5	JLe to investigate the purpose of what looks like a pop up bike lane near the Bulleen Road Bridge.	JLe	29/11/2024	OPEN	
SC24 7-6	JLe to investigate safety measures for cyclists on the shared path diversion onto Winfield Road.	JLe	29/11/2024	OPEN	
SC24 7-7	GJ would like further information provided on the decision to only have one shared user path and not a separate walking and cycling	JLe	29/11/2024	OPEN	

No.	Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
	path along the Koonung Creek Trail.				
SC24 7-8	JLe to update group on final location of Sentinel sculpture.	JLe	29/11/2024	OPEN	
SC24 7-9	MH to investigate the space and safety elements at the bend on Heyington Avenue Bridge.	MH	29/11/2024	OPEN	
SC24 7-10	NMo to report back to the group on the actions taken to address the issue of truck staging on Thompsons Road.	NMo	29/11/2024	OPEN	
SC24 7-11	Project to investigate the attendance of a DTP rep at CLG meetings.	NMo	29/11/2024	OPEN	