

EASTERN TRANSPORT COALITION MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday, 17 December 2020
Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Hosted by: City of Greater Dandenong
Via video conferencing

Attendees

Councillors

- Cr Stuart James, City of Monash (Chair)
- Cr Marijke Graham, Maroondah City Council
- Cr Tina Liu, City of Whitehorse
- Cr Susan Laukens, Knox City Council
- Cr Anna Chen, Manningham City Council
- Cr Jim Child, Yarra Ranges Council

Officers

- Lucas Sikiotis, City of Greater Dandenong
- Karen O’Gorman, Yarra Ranges Council
- Terry Tillotson, City of Monash
- Sandra Worsnop, City of Monash
- Christopher Marshall, City of Greater Dandenong
- Ron Crawford, Knox City Council
- Michael Blowfield, Maroondah City Council
- Chris Hui, City of Whitehorse
- Matthew Hanrahan, Knox City Council
- Mark Varmalis, Yarra Ranges Council

Secretariat

- James McGarvey, The Agenda Group

Guests

- David Waldren, National Head of Design, Vicinity Centres
- Richard O’Dwyer, Senior Development Manager, Vicinity Centres

Apologies

- Frank Vassilacos, Manningham City Council
- Dale Bristow, Maroondah City Council
- Sylvester Ng, Knox City Council
- Daniele Raneri, Manningham City Council
- Rachel Antonacci, City of Monash
- Gus Brown, City of Monash

1. Welcome and apologies

Cr James welcomed the attendees.

2. Conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were raised.

3. Ratify previous draft Minutes and actions arising

Moved: Cr Marijke Graham.

Seconded: Cr Anna Chen.

4. ETC Finance - report circulated with meeting papers

Moved: Cr Anna Chen.

Seconded: Cr Marijke Graham.

5. Guest Presentation – Caulfield-Rowville Trackless Rapid Transit

David Waldren, National Head of Design, Vicinity Centres and Richard O’Dwyer, Senior Development Manager, Vicinity Centres joined the meeting to present their proposal for a Caulfield-Rowville Trackless Rapid Transit system.

The Caulfield-Rowville Trackless Rapid Transit option has been developed by Vicinity as an alternative to the Victorian Government’s Caulfield to Monash light rail proposal, and the Federal Government’s funding offer for a heavy link from Rowville to Huntingdale.

Vicinity has recently briefed officers at both Knox and Monash Councils on the proposal, and is now conducting briefings for regional groups including the South East Melbourne (SEM) group of councils and the ETC.

Vicinity argues that Trackless Rapid Transit (TRT) is the most flexible and cost effective technology option and best matches with current and forecast demand.

TRT connecting Caulfield to Rowville can be delivered at a cost of approximately \$1.4 billion, and be operational by 2025, whereas a comparable light rail solution (as proposed by the State Government) would cost approximately \$2.9 billion and require an additional two years to complete.

The Caulfield – Rowville TRT proposal will support and expand the reach of the Victorian Government’s Suburban Rail Loop project by providing an east-west connection to complement the SRL’s north-south connection.

Vicinity has commenced briefing both the State and Federal government on its proposal, recommending that Governments use their report and associated background work as the basis for a business case

They are seeking to establish a stakeholder working group. Proposed members may include:

- Vicinity Centres
- Monash University
- Dexus
- Local Councils (Cities of Stonnington, Glen Eira, Monash and Knox)
- South East Melbourne (SEM); and
- Eastern Transport Coalition

Vicinity is hoping that the business case could be completed by Q4 2020 for consideration by both governments.

A copy of Vicinity's presentation will be circulated with these Minutes.

6. Guest Presentation - Eastern Regional Trails Strategy

Michael Blowfield, Manningham City Council, presented to the meeting an outline of the composition, work to date and priority areas for the Eastern Regional Trails Strategy Group, which closely mirrors the ETC in composition.

The Eastern Regional Trails Strategy Project Working Group (ERTSWG) consists of six eastern metropolitan councils and has responsibility for the management and coordination of the Strategy and action plan.

The Eastern regional Trails Strategy sets the strategic vision, direction and priorities for collaborative planning, construction, marketing and management of a regional trails network between all tiers of government and stakeholders

The regional trails network consists of 22 trails of which five are either non-existent or substantially incomplete. These missing sections are priority construction projects for the ERTSWG, and are suggested advocacy items for the ETC to include in its policy platform for the next cycle of state and federal elections.

A copy of Mr Blowfield's presentation will be circulated with these Minutes.

7. ETC Policy Development Process

Michael Blowfield, on behalf of his colleague Dale Bristow from Maroondah City Council, reminded the group that they would welcome feedback and response from ETC members on the material that was discussed and circulated after the November meeting, seeking to establish a set of clear and agreed criteria by which the group could consider the inclusion of road projects in the next iteration of the ETC policy platform.

Mr Blowfield asked that members review the key points of the presentation and provide thoughts and feedback directly to Mr Bristow over the summer period, and before the February 2021 group meeting.

8. Bus Review Working Group

It was agreed due to absences that the update on the Bus Review Working Group will be provided at the February 2021 ETC meeting.

9. Infrastructure Victoria 30 year plan

James McGarvey from the ETC Secretariat provided a briefing on the recent release of Infrastructure Victoria's draft 30 year plan.

The first such plan was released in 2016, and is required to be updated every 5 years. Infrastructure Victoria reports to Parliament, rather than the Government itself, and has no funding capacity of its own.

Infrastructure Victoria claims that approximately 86% of its 2016 recommendations have been enacted or are currently under way.

Victoria's updated draft *30-Year Infrastructure Strategy* contains 95 draft recommendations to government for infrastructure policies, reforms and projects, spanning many types of infrastructure, based on extensive evidence, research and consultation.

Key themes of the draft report centre on acknowledging the impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The draft report also seeks to respond to climate issues and places particular focus on the need to integrate land use and infrastructure planning.

The draft strategy is an opportunity to test IV's advice on Victoria's infrastructure needs and priorities, and to seek community feedback on IV assumptions, evidence and draft recommendations. The final strategy update will be delivered to the Victorian Parliament in mid-2021.

Many of the draft report's 95 recommendations are related to transport infrastructure, planning and service delivery and are relevant to the ETC's priorities and work.

A copy of the detailed presentation slides listing all the transport-related recommendations in the draft report will be circulated with these minutes.

10. Other Business

Cr Liu reported that the Victorian Government has announced that the level crossing removals at Surrey Hills and Mont Albert will be accelerated.

The LXRA has commenced consultation, which will run until early next year, with stakeholders and the community

11. Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at 7.33pm.

Next meeting is at 5.30pm on Thursday, 18 February 2021. Meeting to be hosted by Manningham City Council, via video conference.