



## **EASTERN TRANSPORT COALITION MINUTES OF MEETING**

Date: Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Hosted by: Online

### **Attendees:**

#### **Councillors**

- Cr Stuart James, City of Monash (Chair)
- Cr Susan Laukens, Knox City Council
- Cr Tina Liu, City of Whitehorse
- Cr Tomas Lightbody, Manningham City Council
- Cr Andrew Fullager, Yarra Ranges Council
- Cr Anna Chen, Manningham City Council (*observer*)

#### **Officers**

- Lucas Sikiotis, City of Greater Dandenong
- Shane Hardingham, Knox City Council
- Daniele Raneri, Manningham City Council
- Dale Bristow, Maroondah City Council
- Terry Tillotson, City of Monash
- Sandra Worsnop, City of Monash
- Chris Hui, City of Whitehorse
- Karen O’Gorman, Yarra Ranges Council
- Kim O’Connor, Yarra Ranges Council

#### **Secretariat**

- James McGarvey, The Agenda Group

#### **Apologies**

- Cr Tony Dib, Maroondah City Council
- Cr Rhonda Garad, City of Greater Dandenong
- Christopher Marshall, City of Greater Dandenong
- Matthew Hanrahan, Knox City Council
- Frank Vassilacos, Manningham City Council
- Michael Blowfield, Maroondah City Council
- Elissa Merriweather, Yarra Ranges Council

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Cr James assumed the chair and welcomed the attendees,

**2. Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

**3. Election of Office Bearers**

Councillor representatives met in-camera, and determined the following ETC office holders for 2023:

Chair: Cr Stuart James, City of Monash

Deputy Chair: Cr Susan Laukens, Knox City Council

The group congratulated Crs James and Laukens on their election.

**4. Ratify Previous Draft Minutes and Actions Arising**

Minutes of the December 2022 ETC meeting:

M: Cr Stuart James  
S: Lucas Sikiotis                      Carried

**5. ETC Finance Report**

Terry Tillotson, City of Monash provided a finance report as detailed below for the ETC for December 2022 – January 2023 as follows:

Opening balance was	\$58,970.91	
December Invoice from TAG	\$7,500	Paid
Closing balance for January is	\$51,470.91	

M: Cr Stuart James  
S: Lucas Sikiotis                      Carried

It was agreed that the budget for the ETC should be discussed as an agenda item at the next meeting.

## 6. 2023 Advocacy Work Plan

### Items for consideration in 2023

ETC Secretariat James McGarvey provided an outline of items carried over from 2022 advocacy that may form the starting base of consideration of matters to be addressed in 2023. *(list was circulated prior to the meeting)*

These include:

- Bus network reform
- Rail projects
- Roads
- Pedestrian crossings
- Regional trails

Other issues to consider for 2023 and beyond may include:

- SRL issues
- North East Link project issues
- Opportunities to work with new bus franchisee (Kinetic)

In ensuing discussion, ETC members suggested the following items be considered for attention by the ETC in 2023:

### Bus review – Manningham

- Daniele reported that the draft consultation report will be released by DTP early this year, then implementation plan is expected to follow, which will require funding commitments from the State Government. This will require significant advocacy.
- The current study is oriented toward the northern suburbs (Manningham/Whitehorse to Latrobe University), and could support the call for an SRL-mirroring bus service to be established on this corridor.

### Rail Projects

- The commencement of the Caulfield-Rowville TRT business case announcement from the Federal and State Governments is expected in the coming month or two. Presuming a positive business case is arrived at, advocacy for funding of implementation will be required in late 2023 and into 2024 by concerned stakeholders.
- The Cave Hill station development and duplication on the Lilydale/Belgrave lines remains a priority for the ETC, and needs over time a constant advocacy voice as it will be considered within a competitive space as the Government continues to eliminate single sections of track on the metropolitan network.

- Service levels, including frequency and span of hours for rail services, should also be a focus for ETC advocacy.
- Consideration of a mass-transit (i.e. mode agnostic) solution for transport needs in the Burwood Hwy, Vermont South, Wantirna Health precinct, Upper Ferntree Gully corridor.

## **Roads**

- Dorset Rd extension – Knox to consider the status of this and provide advice to ETC in light of change in federal funding commitments.
- Small scale works we have proposed, including intersection treatments and safety measures, and public transport-supportive road projects should stay on the table for advocacy.

## **Pedestrian Crossings**

- Each ETC council had contributed two priority pedestrian crossing projects to a list of ETC advocacy asks last year. Some of these were larger scale projects.
- A list of smaller-scale projects may be worth developing, with one project per council, given State Government funding constraints.
- Terry Tillotson, City of Monash to provide guidance on criteria for Councils nominating a project for advocacy, including access to public transport/bus stops.

## **Regional Trails**

- The ETC had adopted the asks developed by the Eastern Region Trails Strategy working group and supported these at the last federal and state elections.

The ETC should seek guidance from the ERTS group on the need to refresh the package, and what further is required to strengthen advocacy.

ETC officers on the ERTS working group have been requested to communicate this request from the ETC.

## **Other possible issues**

- SRL – City of Whitehorse seeking Thurston to Nelson Rd overpass, and would welcome ETC support. Other similar local issues may arise in coming years.
- The new ticketing system – tender will be finalised in coming weeks.
- New Department of Transport and Planning:

- Where is the Victorian Transport Strategy at?
- How can we support integrated approach to planning and transport
- What's happening with 'movement and place' strategy
- Electric Vehicles – EAGA has some carriage of this but there may be space for ETC to also consider, particularly around infrastructure, electric bus fleets, etc.
- Bike lanes – most projects are localised to individual councils, and not of a regional nature. Cycling links (and pedestrian and scooter usage more broadly) to public transport points may be worthy of future consideration for the ETC.

**Timeframe considerations for the ETC's work planning include:**

Elections:

- The next State Election will be held in November 2026
- The next Federal Election is due by May 2025

State and Federal Budget processes:

- Government starts considering first cut of projects by September/October
- Local MPS nominate local projects by late October
- Most decisions made by the following February
- Budgets announced in May.

Mr McGarvey suggested that the hallmarks of good advocacy to guide the ETC's planning are:

- A clear and justified prioritisation of advocacy asks
  - Why this and why now?
- A well argued case
  - Evidence and data
- Demonstrable support from community and stakeholders
  - Who can we engage, and how?
- Early engagement with decision-makers
  - How do we work with Government and local MPs?

This may require further advocacy in the new year from the ETC and partners to get this project underway.

*A copy of Mr McGarvey's presentation will be circulated with the meeting minutes*

## 7. General Business

Nil.

## 8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be hosted at Knox City Council and online, and will commence at 6.00pm for dinner, and 6.30pm for meeting start on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### Action Summary

Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline
1. The budget for the ETC should be discussed as an agenda item at the next meeting	ETC Secretariat	March 2022
2. Circulate the ERTS strategy	Monash/Secretariat	March 2022
3. Provide selection criteria for ETC pedestrian crossing projects	Monash/Secretariat	April 2023