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Minutes – General Meeting Wednesday, 1st July, 2020

Virtual meeting hosted by zoom

Chair: Cr Jonathon Marsden

1. Welcome and introduction

Cr Marsden opened the meeting, and welcomed members and guests.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Present:

Brett Langley	Department of Transport
Cr Alison Champion	City of Banyule
Cr Tom Melican	City of Banyule
Kathleen Petras	City of Banyule
M March	City of Bayside
Henry Lee	City of Bayside
Adam McSwain	City of Bayside
Gael Reid	City of Boroondara
Cr Bruce Lancashire	City of Brimbank
Jon Liston	City of Brimbank
Warren Smith	City of Casey
Hannah Neumayer	City of Darebin
T Athanasopoulos	City of Glen Eira
Cr Jonathon Marsden	City of Hobsons Bay
S Rahman	City of Hobsons Bay
Doug Rowland	City of Hobsons Bay
Ross Gregory	City of Kingston
Alex Reid	City of Kingston
Mary Dallas	City of Maribyrnong
Cr Anna Chen	City of Manningham

Daniele Ranieri	City of Manningham
Thomas HardieCogdon	City of Manningham
Richard Smithers	City of Melbourne
Oscar Hayes	City of Melbourne
Cr Bob Turner	City of Melton
Sam Romaszko	City of Melton
Cr Stuart James	City of Monash
Ross Evans	City of Monash
Josh Fergeus	City of Monash
Cr Andrea Surace	City of Moonee Valley
Damir Agic	City of Moonee Valley
Cr Jess Dorney	City of Moreland
Simon Stainsby	City of Moreland
Cr Antonella Celi	Mornington Peninsula
Claire Davey	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Lawrence Seyers	City of Nillumbik
Che Sutherland	City of Port Phillip
Cr Andrew Davenport	City of Whitehorse
Cr Andrew Munroe	City of Whitehorse
Serman Uluca	City of Whitehorse
Russell Tricker	City of Whittlesea
Troy Knowling	City of Whittlesea
Cr Intaj Khan	City of Wyndham
Melissa Falkenberg	City of Wyndham
D Rowland	City of Hobsons Bay
Julian Wearne	City of Yarra
Cr Jackie Fristacky	City of Yarra
O Stoltz	
Lauren Coombes	
David Stosser	MRCagney
Greg Day	Edunity
Jane Waldock	MTF

Apologies

Cr Andrea Surace, City of Moonee Valley
Prue Cutts, City of Whitehorse
Lambros Tapinos, City of Darebin
Cr Phillip Healy, City of Boroondara
Rick Garotti, City of Banyule
Cr Natalie Abboud – City of Moreland

3. Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting

MOTION: that the minutes of the previous meeting Wednesday 3rd June be accepted.

Proposed: Cr Antonella Celi

Seconded: Cr Bruce Lancashire

The motion was: CARRIED

4. Executive Officer Transition

New Executive Officer Jane Waldock informed the meeting of handover/transition meetings with Susie Strain undertaken in June briefing on topics such as finances, website and communications, membership and governance.

5. Treasurer's report

Treasurer Cr Anna Chen spoke to the May Treasurer's report, as circulated to members, noting account balances, and invoices which had been considered and approved for payment by the Executive.

MOTION: that the May Treasurer's report including invoices approved for payment by the Executive as circulated, be accepted.

Proposed: Cr Anna Chen

Seconded: Cr Antonella Celi

The motion was: CARRIED

6. Presentation: Brett Langley – Chief of Network Operations, Department of Transport, on Victorian Public Transport in times of COVID 19

Brett spoke of the significant changes in transport usage patterns since the introduction of community travel restrictions in March. Public Transport patronage dropped by 90%, and is now slowly recovering. He noted that while private car transport had also significantly fallen to 40% of pre COVID volumes, it was now back at 85%. Brett noted that freight traffic levels are largely the same as pre COVID and are exceeding levels on some transport corridors.

Brett talked about the key decisions the department considered such as how to maintain a full network service, and how to retain the confidence of customers.

The department response has included increased cleaning and hygiene, protection of PT staff, clear communication and reporting and monitoring. Brett noted that if social distancing requirements are strictly followed, the service would run at only 15% capacity. Current passenger numbers in peak

periods are at 27%. During peak periods there is no ability to increase capacity with current infrastructure.

Brett spoke about how matters are largely in the hands of customers to behave in a safe manner, and commented on NSW experiences with social distancing management. The department has been doing a great deal of monitoring, and is looking for ways to share this information with customers. The department is also looking at what actions can be taken to spread the transport load across longer time periods to assist in achievement of social distancing, this could include provision of more services in the shoulder peak periods. Solutions cover all transport modes, and new technology options are being considered.

DoT has worked closely with DHHS and is keeping a close watch on travel patterns with the return of students to classrooms.

Points raised by members in discussion:

- Had there been any savings across the network during the lockdown period? – No, as franchise payments are largely fixed.
- Has there been noticeable increases in active transport? – Some reduction as people were encouraged to work from home, but large increase in recreational cycling and walking.
- Is policy on pedestrian sensors directed to encouraging pedestrians? – a balance between road users was being struck.
- Any change in the demographics of PT users? – Older passenger numbers have reduced. –
- Punctuality has greatly improved.

7. Strategic Transport Advocacy

A number of Councils provided report back on progress on their actions to rapidly install bike lanes as a COVID response.

8. Other Matters

Cr Melican advised of upcoming session being developed by MAV and Vic Health. No details were available at this point.

Cr Fristacky noted activities of VTAG.

David Stosser noted that Yarra Trams track standards are now available.

9. Meeting closed

8:00pm