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Agenda – General Meeting  
Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020

Virtual meeting hosted by zoom

Chair: Cr Jonathon Marsden

1. **Welcome and introduction**

**Present:**

Cr Tom Melican	City of Banyule
Cr Alison Champion	City of Banyule
Kathleen Petras	City of Banyule
Alison	City of Banyule
Henry Lee	City of Bayside
Adam McSwain	City of Bayside
Gael Reid	City of Boroondara
Cr Coral Ross	President, Municipal Association of Victoria
Cr Bruce Lancashire	City of Brimbank
Jon Liston	City of Brimbank
Warren Smith	City of Casey
Cr Jonathon Marsden	City of Hobsons Bay
Doug Rowland	City of Hobsons Bay
Alex Reid	City of Kingston
Cr Anna Chen	City of Manningham
Daniele Ranieri	City of Manningham
Thomas HardieCogdon	City of Manningham
Lord Mayor Sally Capp	City of Melbourne
Richard Smithers	City of Melbourne
Oscar Hayes	City of Melbourne
Cr Bob Turner	City of Melton
Sam Romaszko	City of Melton
Cr Josh Fergeus	City of Monash
Damir Agic	City of Moonee Valley
Cr Natalie Abboud	City of Moreland
Cr Jess Dorney	City of Moreland
Simon Stainsby	City of Moreland

Claire Davey	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Che Sutherland	City of Port Phillip
Cr Andrew Davenport	City of Whitehorse
Cr Andrew Munroe	City of Whitehorse
Serman Uluca	City of Whitehorse
Troy Knowing	City of Whittlesea
Russell Tricker	City of Whittlesea
Melissa Falkenberg	City of Wyndham
Julian Wearne	City of Yarra
Cr Jackie Fristacky	City of Yarra
O Stoltz	
Lauren Coombes	
David Stosser	MRCagney
Harry Barber	Philip Boyle and Associates
Cr Coral Ross	President, Municipal Association of Victoria
Emma Lake	Municipal Association of Victoria
Greg Day	Edunity
Jane Waldock	MTF
Susie Strain	MTF

## Apologies

Cr Andrea Surace, City of Moonee Valley

Cr Stuart James, City of Monash

## 2. Minutes

MOTION: that the minutes of the previous meeting Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May be accepted

Proposed: Cr Bruce Lancashire

Seconded: Cr Jackie Fristacky

Carried

## 3. Executive Officer Transition

Retiring Executive Officer Susie Strain informed the meeting of an extended transition throughout June including a regular Friday morning briefing on topics such as finances, website and communications, membership and governance. The incoming Executive Officer Jane Waldock is well familiar with the MTF and is copied in on all emails and activities to ensure a smooth handover.

Jane Waldock also spoke of her anticipation of the role and looking forward to involvement with the membership and advocacy projects.

MOTION: a vote of thanks to Susie Strain for 15 years as Executive Officer

Proposed: Cr Jackie Fristacky

Carried unanimously

#### **4. Treasurer's report**

Treasurer Cr Anna Chen reported that a new process for the Treasurer's report had been decided at the executive meeting held on May 20th, i.e. that Treasurer's report including invoices to be paid be first presented to the executive meeting for approval and then circulated for noting to the following general meeting. Therefore the Treasurer's report including invoices to be paid for the month of May will be approved at the June executive meeting and provided to be received and noted at the July general meeting.

MOTION: that the Treasurer's report including invoices to be paid be approved at the monthly MTF executive meeting, then circulated to be received and noted at the following MTF general meeting.

Proposed: Cr Anna Chen  
Seconded: Cr Bruce Lancashire  
Carried

#### **5. Presentation: Cr Coral Ross, President Municipal Association of Victoria**

Coral spoke of the extensive work currently underway by MAV to support Victorian councils and advocate to the State Government on local government behalf.

MAV is a member of the State Emergency Management Committee, and Relief and Recovery Team. A small MAV team is working to support councils and actively advocating to state and federal governments on councils' behalf. Some of the main undertakings are

- Writing to all State and Federal Parliamentarians to let them know council commitment supporting their community in many ways at substantial cost
- Likewise providing evidence of councils' community support to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
- Submission to the Senate Inquiry into COVID
- Local government has experienced a sizeable loss of revenue through mandated closure of facilities and support of residents and businesses. The MAV has estimated local government losses as follows
  - Sizeable impact on councils' finances potentially over \$107 million in 2020, over \$145 million in 2021

- Waiving fees and charges about \$82 million
- Interest waivers, outstanding fees, granting extensions to the level of \$60 million in 2020, \$137 million in 2021
- Local government employs 50,000 Victorians. About 700 employees have been stood down and 5,000 casuals without shifts.
- Supporting councils applying for the Working for Victoria program, for which 70 of 79 councils have applied and a number successful in the first round
- Local government is not eligible for JobKeeper and MAV is advocating with ALGA for change
- Efforts to stimulate investment by reducing red tape may allow opportunistic developers to bypass thorough planning, and the MAV is presenting accordingly to the Building Recovery Taskforce and Minister for Planning
- Considerable losses in both the Aged and Child Care sectors

More specifically on the transport topic, the MAV has recently engaged transport professional Geoff Oulton to work on a number of transport issues including an asset management strategy and activity in the freight sector under the Freight Victoria Grant, re-establishing the Freight Quality Reference Group and heavy vehicle policy program, as well as attending to a variety of transport issues.

The Amy Gillet Foundation has approached ALGA for local government support of pop-up bicycle lanes, and also raised with the Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack who is Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development. The MAV is meeting with Vic Health in support of active transport and will re-establish a regular monthly meeting with Sport and Recreation Victoria. Of interest to MTF councils is the \$500 million federal grant for local road and infrastructure projects which will include cycling; councils can access funding after July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

MAV CEO Kerry Thomson is running regular local government connect sessions, and the MAV is hosting both an officer and a councillor session on active transport.

Emma Lake, MAV, spoke of the opportunity to capitalise on the community uptake of walking and cycling by installing temporary as well as permanent infrastructure; she encouraged agencies with the common interest to share information and work with the community and local media to generate more support for active transport.

#### Points raised in discussion

- Transport issues in City of Moreland exacerbated by the closure of Upfield bicycle path due to the level crossing removal program, and the railway line is closed every weekend. Lack of options causes more congestion
- UITP webinar reported a worldwide dramatic decline in public transport use and consequent swing to car use where people feel safer, some of which could be absorbed by greater bicycle usage.
- Melissa Falkenburg, City of Wyndham, reported a council initiative to reallocate road space on a local street creating a 3 km cycle loop to Werribee city centre. Council has prepared the necessary documentation of a road safety audit, branding, lower speed limit and is in discussion with Department of Transport
- Benefits of quieter streets and cleaner air, realisation that cities more pleasant when less dominated by cars, but how to use the opportunity and retain some of the benefits
- Signs that the state transport authorities recognise the opportunity for change but not clear which innovations will get approval

#### **6. Presentation from Lord Mayor Sally Capp on City of Melbourne initiative to prioritise bicycle lanes and footpath space**

Lord Mayor Sally Capp spoke of City of Melbourne's approach to prioritise investment in cycling and walking facilities with the intention to support city access to enable the return to work and other city-based activities when social isolation limits the use of public transport.

950,000 people come into City of Melbourne every day, which fell to 50,000 people in May.

The requirements of social distancing will change the way people move around, particularly limiting public transport.

This is a world wide problem, and some solutions in other cities for public transport are

- Compulsory masks
- Lines on floor, dots on seats to encourage separation
- Different entry and exit doors
- Carriage attendants to better manage space

Of the 950,000 coming into the city every day, 700,000 had come by public transport. City of Melbourne sees bicycle lanes and increased footpath space as the best way to accommodate the new mobility demand.

City of Melbourne has sought to advance the actions in the Transport Strategy of 2019 to increase capacity of both bike lane and footpaths. This has been greatly enabled by the levels of cooperation both across and within levels of government, private industry, not for profits and various agencies. It is hoped this cooperative environment can be maintained, as the economic impacts of the COVID will continue for some time.

Spatial discipline on trains will mean that the rail commuters from middle to inner suburbs may not be able to get on the trains and will look to cycling as an alternative. City of Melbourne will look to coordinate with those councils to ensure the safe cycling facilities are well linked.

City of Melbourne has sought to advance the actions in the Transport Strategy of 2019 to increase capacity of both bike lane and footpaths. The Council has planned additional 40km of bicycle lanes, 20 km to be announced shortly. Likewise footpath expansion will be needed as social distancing requires more space between people.

The acceleration of bicycle and walking infrastructure has been greatly enabled by the levels of cooperation both across and within levels of government, private industry, not for profits and various agencies. It is hoped this cooperative environment can be maintained, as the economic impacts of the COVID will continue for some time.

Richard Smithers, City of Melbourne, described the on-ground arrangements for 'pop-up' bike lanes to satisfy the Department of Transport which are being installed without the usual consideration and consultation. Treatments will be in the nature of trials, of a less permanent nature, able to be adjusted and subject to monitoring.

Richard acknowledged the valuable cooperation from the Department of Transport working across many levels of seniority, also the cooperation within the Council across many disciplines to achieve a quick response.

Decision-making was enabled by the City of Melbourne transport strategy of 2019 which already had community support; the actions were brought forward from a 10 year horizon to 4 years (as a climate change response) and then further to a matter of months as a COVID response.

Further discussion covered

- Protected bike lanes are essential to encourage more use
- Level of cooperation has been significant and enabled a much quicker and less risk-averse response
- Community resistance can be best managed by data and evidence to counteract an emotional response
- Other world cities on same path

## **7. Strategic Transport Advocacy**

Greg Day, Edunity, had drafted an advocacy plan to support rapid installation of bike lanes as a COVID response. This had been circulated, and following discussion was endorsed.

MOTION: that the MTF adopt the an advocacy plan to prioritise the installation of bike lanes as a COVID response

Proposed: Cr Bruce Lancashire

Seconded: Cr Tom Melican

Carried

## **8. Meeting closed**