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Interim Minutes – General Meeting
6:15pm Wednesday, 5 April 2023
By Zoom
Chair: Cr Jonathon Marsden

1. Welcome and introduction

The meeting commenced with an acknowledgement of country.

Present:

Cr Tom Melican	City of Banyule
Cr Sam David	City of Brimbank
Saskia Noakes	City of Glen Eira
Cr Jodi Jackson	City of Hume
Cr Steve Staikos	City of Kingston
Alex Reid	City of Kingston
Cr Anna Chen	City of Manningham
Daniele Ranieri	City of Manningham
Cr Bernadette Thomas	City of Maribyrnong
Richard Smithers	City of Melbourne
Simon Stainsby	City of Merri-bek
Ross Evans	City of Monash
Sandra Worsnop	City of Monash
Cr Sarah Race	Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Justine Lewis	Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Emily Clarke	Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Cr Richard Stockman	Shire of Nillumbik
Nellie Montague	City of Port Phillip
Douglas Rowland	City of Stonnington
Cr Amanda McNeill	City of Whitehorse
Russell Tricker	City of Whittlesea
Melissa Falkenberg	City of Wyndham

Associates	
David Stosser	PMP Urbanists
Geoff Oulton	MAV
Angela Mejca	Movement and Place
Daniel Bowen	PTUA
MTF	
Jane Waldock	MTF
Greg Day	MTF

Guests

Peter Kartsidimas	Infrastructure Victoria
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Apologies

Cr Victor Franco – Boroondara	Kris Kasmawan – Merri-bek
Cr Jim Magee – Glen Eira	Lawrence Seyers – Nillumbik
Cr David Zyngier – Glen Eira	Ian McLauchlan – Stonnington
Lord Mayor Sally Capp – Melbourne	Nuno Pires – Stonnington
Cr Stuart James – Monash	
Cr Antonella Celi- Mornington Peninsula	Knowles Tivendale – M&P
Cr Susan McIntyre – Wyndham	

2. Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the March meeting will be considered at the May meeting.

3. Presentation Peter Kartsidimas on Infrastructure Victoria’s “Bus Discussion Paper”

Peter gave us an insight into the Transport Minister’s strong interest in and support for buses as a critical part of the public transport system. He described himself as a regular bus user.

The review process is underway, and IV has undertaken a community survey which has not previously been attempted. 4000 interviews have been conducted across all of Melbourne interrogating smaller demographic pockets and what are the trade offs/priorities that bus users make when undertaking their journeys.

Peter provided the background on the bus project and the considerations behind its design – the mismatch between areas of growth and where service gaps are in being able to deliver workers to jobs; the aim is not to repeat the errors of the past which he described as missed

opportunities; average bus speeds need to increase from 15kph, and boarding rates should increase to ensure that bus routes are economically viable.

Peter noted a number of reports from a variety of sectors which have been used in development of the discussion paper, including RMIT's 2021 "Early Delivery of Equitable and Healthy Transport Options in New Suburbs" and a 2022 paper by Roads Australia investigating the social licence for buses in Australia.

He also noted the generally low opinion that Melburnians have of buses, and the potential for improvements such as "bus tracker" somewhat like Uber, and the potential to create BRT with good planning outcomes. Lastly Peter noted that price reform is also potentially part of the improvement suite available.

Peter then answered questions, and advised that if councils had information on bus reform opportunities, they could still provide it to IV.

4. Nomination to Casual Vacancy on 2023 MTF Executive

Cr Sarah Race from Mornington Peninsula was recommended by the Executive to fill one of the casual vacancies on the 2023 Executive.

MOTION: That Cr Sarah Race be appointed as a general member to the 2023 MTF executive.

Proposed: Cr Jodi Jackson

Seconded: Cr Steve Staikos

The motion was: CARRIED

5. Strategic Transport Advocacy

5.1 2023/4 MTF Strategic Action Plan

Ms Waldock advised that the executive had discussed prioritisation and timing of actions in the adopted plan. This is being documented.

5.2 Ambassador Roles

Nominations have been received for four of the six Ambassador roles.

MOTION: That Cr Anna Chen be appointed to the MTF Bus Ambassador role, that Cr Bernadette Thomas be appointed to the MTF Cycling Ambassador role, that Cr Steve Staikos be appointed to the MTF Train Ambassador role, and that Cr Richard Stockman be appointed to the MTF Walking Ambassador role.

Proposed: Cr Jodi Jackson

Seconded: Cr Steve Staikos

The motion was: CARRIED

Members were invited to contact the EO if they were interested in the Access or Tram Ambassador roles.

Mr Stosser suggested that it might be possible to amalgamate the tram and train roles, and the walking and access roles if no nominations were received.

5.3 Executive Meeting with office of Minister for Transport

The Chair provided a report on the meeting held with Ms Haikal.

It was noted that Ms Haikal had sought information from members concerning their support or Zero Emission Buses. Members were requested to advise the EO of their municipalities policies on ZEBs, which maybe described in transport, climate change, sustainability, adaptation or other plans. This info will then be provided to Ms Haikal.

6. Council Information Sharing

Mr Doug Rowland from Stonnington, Cr Amanda McNeill from Whitehorse, Mr Russell Tricker from Whittlesea, and Ms Melissa Falkenberg from Wyndham provided updates on transport projects and policies in their municipalities.

Mr Rowland described the transport projects at Stonnington, including capital works projects, and the successful safe routes to school work which was undertaken in February. This program will be repeated in 2024. Doug also described a number of policy areas which Stonnington are working on including active transport behaviour change, and the electric vehicle charging and the forward planning for the cycling infrastructure implementation plan which will run from 2023 to 2028.

Cr McNeill spoke about Whitehorse's transport issues, including the Mont Albert Surrey Hills Level Crossing Removal Project, and community disappointment with the ancillary works, and the significant impacts on traffic while the project is being constructed. Cr McNeill spoke about the Easy Route Rides work, which is aiming to create a low stress cycling network, and the Nelson Road study which is examining this complex precinct which includes a hospital, TAFE, gardens and the aim to introduce a 40kph speed limit.

Mr Tricker gave an overview of Whittlesea's transport considerations: Whittlesea is a high growth area with extremely high car dependency; there are many missing links, and poor bus service levels. Whittlesea are advocating for the Wollert Rail extension to improve public transport from Epping to Wollert by 2030. This train extension also requires bus service improvements to support it. Whittlesea are also advocating for the extension of the route 86 tram, and upgrade to arterial roads which must include active transport outcomes. In the policy area Whittlesea re looking at cycling projects including the Northern Trails Strategy, and a refresh of the Integrated Transport Strategy which will occur over the next 6 months. Whittlesea are also working on an LXP project at Keon Parade, using a Movement and Place study.

Ms Falkenberg spoke about Wyndham's major transport projects, noting that the Flexiride bus service has been immensely successful over 10 years, having two prongs to deliver neighbourhood connections and reach over 50000 households. Wyndham is working on refreshing its 2016b ITS, and is looking to obtain state funding for its Transport Study.

7. Regular Reports

7.1 Treasurer's report

Please note this includes reports from February 2023 meeting which were held over.

- Treasurer reports from November 2022 and December 2022, and January 2023
- invoices approved by Exec in December 2022, and January and February 2023
 - Yarra Bookkeeping Inv 1535 – March bookkeeping \$ 220.00 (inc GST)
 - JW Urban invoice 202303 – EO services Jan Feb 2023
plus Vic Budget submission \$6160.00 (inc GST)
 - Edunity Invoice 3647 March retainer \$ 660.00 (inc GST)

MOTION: That the Treasurer's reports for February 2023, and invoices approved for payment in March 2023 be noted.

Proposed: Mr Ross Evans

Seconded: Ms Melissa Falkenberg

The motion was: CARRIED

7.2 Upcoming events of interest

MAV/Victoria Walks – Smart Urban Futures – in May – information has been circulated to members

7.3 MAV

Mr Geoff Oulton provided an update on matters at the MAV.

- Noted Cr Steve Staikos has been elected to the MAV board;
- The CEO remains an interim appointment for the time being;
- The Smart Urban Futures conference is being held on 4-5 May;
- They are continuing to work with VicHealth.

7.4 Administration

Note: Ms Waldock will be on leave for the May and June meetings.

Mr Greg Day will undertake the secretariat role while she is away.

8. Correspondence

Nil

9. Up Coming Meeting Topics

Coming General meetings:

- May 2023 – Amy Childs – DTP - Active Transport

10. General Business

Cr McNeill requested that the decision to hold general meetings predominantly on line be reconsidered, to reflect current delegate's views.

11. Meeting closed 8:00 pm