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Minutes – General Meeting
6:30 pm Wednesday, 5 November 2025
By Zoom
Chair: Cr Bernadette Thomas

1. Welcome and introduction

The meeting commenced with an acknowledgement of country.
Delegates to the MTF were warmly welcomed by the Chair.

Present:

Michelle Herbert	City of Banyule
Chris Phiniefs	City of Bayside
Khan Nguyen	City of Boroondara
Cr Lucy Nguyen	City of Brimbank
Kevin De Leeuw	City of Darebin
Ed Zhao	City of Glen Eira
Tim DeRuitjer	City of Hume
Alex Leung	City of Hume
Alex Reid	City of Kingston
Cr Bernadette Thomas	City of Maribyrnong
Augustus Brown	City of Melbourne
Michael Smith	City of Melton
Cr Liz Irvin	City of Merri-bek
Simon Stainsby	City of Merri-bek
Ross Evans	City of Monash
Sandra Worsnop	City of Monash
Damir Agic	City of Moonee Valley
Karen Roache	City of Port Phillip
Doug Rowland	City of Stonnington
Cr Kieran Simpson	City of Whitehorse
Tomas Lightbody	City of Yarra

Associates	
Hans Gao	Eukai
David Stosser	Urban Transit Solutions
Daniel Bowen –	PTUA
Caitlin Mulvogue–Pasquali	Movement and Place
MTF	
Jane Waldock	MTF

Apologies	
CR Michael Nolan – Boroondara	Anitha Ajay – Casey
Cr Ruth Jelley – Darebin	Emma Steele – Manningham
Cr Kay Rimbaldo – Glen Eira	Liz Lambropoulos – Nillumbik
Cr Phil Burn – Moonee Valley	Karen Roach – Port Phillip
Cr Anna Chen – Manningham	Chris Hui– Whitehorse
Cr Stephen Batty – Mornington Peninsula	Melissa Falkenberg – Wyndham
Cr Cam Williams – Mornington Peninsula	Phillip Mallis – Yarra
Cr McKay – Nillumbik	
Cr Joiner – Nillumbik	
Cr Alex Makin – Port Phillip	
Cr Jarrod Gunn – Whitehorse	
Cr Sophie Wade – Yarra	Greg Day – MTF

2. Acceptance of Minutes of 3 September 2025 meeting

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 September be adopted (with amendments).

Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas

Seconded: Mr Simon Stainsby

CARRIED

3. Presentation : Mr Michael Contreras – Go-Ahead

Go Ahead's Global Rail Operations Michael Contreras, Executive Director of Operations for Go Ahead Australia and New Zealand Rail, presented an overview of the company's global operations. Go Ahead, a 30-year-old public transport company, began in the UK and has expanded to operate in multiple countries, including Norway, Sweden, Singapore, and Australia.

Michael highlighted Go Ahead's experience in rail and bus operations, including their recent acquisition of the Stockholm Metro and their involvement in the Elizabeth Line in the UK.

Michael presented an overview of Go Ahead's operations in the UK, including their partnership with Keolis and their role in managing the City of London's rail network. He highlighted the size and scope of the network, which includes 432 trains, 1,300 kilometres of route, and 7,300 employees. Michael also discussed their involvement in major infrastructure projects like the Thameslink program and the East Coast Digital Program, which have improved network capacity and introduced digital signalling.

Michael shared that while the UK has done well in anticipating network demands, projects like Thameslink took 15 years from planning to groundbreaking. He emphasized the importance of pre-empting future city needs, particularly in Melbourne, where population growth is expected to exceed Sydney's.

Michael discussed the Thameslink program in London, highlighting its high-frequency service and capacity. Michael explained that the change management process for such infrastructure investments involves extensive training and collaboration with unions, taking 1-2 years to implement smoothly. He noted that Melbourne's rail network, with its hub-and-spoke design, is similar in size to the UK's GTR network but presents unique operational challenges.

CBTC and ETCS System Comparisons

Michael discussed the viability of CBTC (Communications-Based Train Control) and ETCS (European Train Control System), noting that both systems achieve similar outcomes but many networks globally are moving towards ETCS due to its interoperability benefits.

4. Council Information Sharing

Monash.

Ms Sandra Worsnop from Monash Council's presented on the Oakleigh protected two way cycleway project between the Scotchman Creek's Trail and the Djerring Trail along Atkinson St.

The project, which began in 2021, is nearing completion with stages 1 and 2 expected to open in December 2025. The project involved removing 40 parking spaces and installing precast concrete curbs, with community support despite initial concerns about road space changes.

5. Ambassador Reports

No reports this month

6. Regular reports

6.1 – Treasurer's Reports

The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's report for September 2025.

The following invoices approved by Exec in September 2025 were noted:

- Yarra Bookkeeping - Inv 2440 - bookkeeping \$ 385.00 (inc GST)

MOTION: That the Treasurer's report for September 2025, and 1 invoice approved by the Executive for payment in October 2025 be noted.

Moved: Mr Ross Evans
Seconded: Cr Lucy Nguyen

CARRIED

6.2 Upcoming events

The MTF Christmas Social function will be held from 3-5 on the 5th December at the Riverland Bar, Federation Wharf. A calendar invitation will be sent by the EO.

6.3 Administration

Nil

7. Correspondence

Nil

8. Up Coming Meeting Topics

2025

Dec - TBA

2026

February - Melbourne Airport Corporation – Airport Rail

April - Dr Simon Kingham – Canterbury University (NZ) on How tweaking our streets can enhance community and enhance wellbeing

9. General Business

9.1 2026 State Budget submission

Members were invited to provide information for potential inclusion in the MTF 2026 Budget submission. It was requested that information be sent to the EO by the end of October.

9.2 Upcoming Special General meeting

The EO advised that a special general meeting will be held in December (on the same day as the regular meeting) to consider changes to the MTF constitution.

10 Meeting closed 7:28 pm