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Minutes – General Meeting
6:15 pm Wednesday, 11 March 2026
By Zoom
Chair: Cr Alex Makin

1. Welcome and introduction

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

Present:

Note:

Michele Herbert	City of Banyule
Chris Phiniefs	City of Bayside
Cr Joh Bauch	City of Brimbank
Cr Lucy Nguyen	City of Brimbank
Paul Bezemer	City of Brimbank
Cr Shima Ibuki	City of Boroondara
Khan Nguyen	City of Boroondara
Cr Anthony Walter	City of Casey
Cr Kim Ross	City of Casey
Anitha Ajay	City of Casey
Cr Ruth Jelley	City of Darebin
Kevin DeLeeuw	City of Darebin
Cr Kay Rimbardo	City of Glen Eira
Ed Zhao	City of Glen Eira
Tim DeRuitjer	City of Hobsons Bay
Bivish Ghimire	City of Hobsons Bay
Cr Anna Chen	City of Manningham
Nicoletta Kormas	City of Manningham
Luke Poland	City of Melbourne
Simon Stainsby	City of Merri-bek
Ross Evans	City of Monash

Sandra Worsnop	City of Monash
Damir Agic	City of Moonee Valley
Cr Max Patton	Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Peter Bourlotos	Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Jon Liston	City of Port Phillip
Russell Tricker	City o Whittlesea
Melissa Falkenberg	City of Wyndham
Cr Sophie Wade	City of Yarra
Guests	
Associates	
Sarah Pilgrim	Victoria Walks
Alison McCormack	Bicycle Network
David Stosser	Urban Transit Solutions
Caitlyn Mulvogue-Pasquali	Movement and Place
Hans Gao	Eukai
Daniel Bowen	PTUA
Adam Bain	Better Buses
MTF	
Jane Waldock	MTF
Greg Day	MTF

Apologies

Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson - Hobsons Bay	Augustus Brown - Melbourne
Cr Max Haddon - Mornington Peninsula	Michael Smith - Melton
Cr Rafael Camillo - Melbourne	
Cr Phil Burn - Moonee Valley	
Cr Liz Irvin - Merri-bek	
Cr Brandi Morris - Melton	
Cr John Dumaresq - Nillumbik	
Cr Naomi Joiner - Nillumbik	
Cr Morris - Melton	
Cr Nat Abboud - Merri-bek	
Cr Sharon Harrison - Yarra	
Cr Preet Singh - Wyndham	
Cr Bernadette Thomas - Maribyrnong	

2. Update on Strategic Advocacy

The EO updated the meeting on the progress of the research work being undertaken by Movement and Place. It will be presented to members on 31st March and 8th April. The presentation will be recorded if members are unable to attend those sessions.

Town Hall Forums – Mr Day advised that we have received 6 Expressions of Interest, which are being considered by the executive. No EOI was received from members on the south-eastern metro region.

Action: EO to suggest to Kingston and Casey to consider a nomination. Casey may be interested in nominating.

3. Acceptance of Minutes of 4 February 2026 meeting

The minutes from the 4 February 2026 meeting were adopted.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2026 be adopted.

Moved: Cr Max Patton

Seconded: Cr Ruth Jelley

CARRIED

4. Advocacy Breakout sessions

An advocacy workshop was undertaken to discuss transport priorities ahead of the 2026 state election, with participants dividing into three breakout rooms focused on buses/PT, cycling, and walking.

The objective was to identify how MTF might work more collaboratively with peak advocacy groups to achieve transport outcomes in the lead up to the 2026 state election. The aim was to identify the macro issues, and seek agreement on what are common objectives.

Partner advocacy groups representatives from PTUA (Daniel Bowen), Victoria Walks (Sarah Pilgrim), Better Buses (Adam Bain) and Bicycle Network (Alison McCormack) introduced themselves, explaining their groups objectives.

Members self-selected into two sessions, and reported on their council's transport advocacy objectives.

The summary of the sessions is:

4.1 Walking:

Members in the sessions identified individual projects – often these were smaller scale. An advocacy objective could be to package multiple smaller projects into a clear election ask. Projects ranged in size.

Some walking projects readily apply to multiple councils: moving to 30 kmph speed limits in residential areas. It was agreed that advocacy focus points would be pedestrian safety, and safety of vulnerable road users. It was considered that Victoria Walks could co-ordinate identification of pedestrian projects, such as pedestrian crossings, or access to public transport. A combined budget of \$250 million was proposed. Members would then be able to leverage projects within their boundaries in discussions with candidates.

A further issue which was identified is the red tape around delivering walking (and other smaller active transport) projects.

The objective is that mode shift should be safe and seamless. A "school streets" program statewide could be widely valuable, being relevant to many members. It was noted that the "Streets for People" program may be a useful community engagement model. The "Build more appealing streets" is a more accessible story than encouraging car drivers to slow down.

Cycling

A strong theme was the need to deliver the Strategic Cycling Corridors, which often cross multiple councils. This includes off road cycling routes such as the Northern Trails route. An important step in delivering the routes can be clarification of who owns land parcels, and then working to gain access to all parcels to realise the routes. Obtaining access to DTP assets remains challenging.

Facilitating active transport through designing and building routes between stations and schools was identified as a possible collaboration; in some locations this might require the construction of major new infrastructure such as pedestrian/cyclist bridges. Projects on this scale are not achievable within council financial constraints, so state commitment and funding is vital.

The high level advocacy goal is for the state to invest in delivering mode share infrastructure, especially at municipal boundaries, again with a focus on the need to improve safety for vulnerable road users. The cost of these non-car infrastructure projects was also identified as a significant challenge.

Also noted was that planning reform is required to ensure that connectivity is built into new estates, which does not rely on car transport, and that this connectivity should also be designed between different developments, not just within.

It was noted that some areas of greater Melbourne are heavily influenced by the seasonal (summer) nature of the occupancy of the dwellings, resulting in less investment in active transport projects in those areas.

Public Transport and buses

The need to extend routes, extend hours of service, and increase service frequency were all identified. Poor weekend service levels were noted across many members' bus networks. It was noted that this does not necessarily require additional buses to be acquired, but can be achieved by using existing fleet more effectively.

It was agreed that changing routes is a difficult task, but it was noted that delivery of the government's housing plan must be matched with ensuring that transport options are affordable for the people in those new homes. Moving from a mainly city centric network was also identified as an important goal. New services should support cross municipal travel, so that the new developments also provide employment opportunity. Different outcomes are appropriate between areas being densified, and new estates in areas further from the existing network.

It was proposed that route reform could be considered as four categories

- a) frequency boost,
- b) minor diversions e.g. existing single trips get more service per day,

- c) major rerouting,
- d) new routes altogether.

It was recommended that each upgrade be attached to a personal story, a/c humanities is more compatible with politics than a scientific approach. It was also noted that smaller projects, without whole-of-system changes that include lynchpins, are politically safer.

5. Council Information Sharing

No reports were presented this month.

6. Regular reports

8.1 – Treasurer’s Reports

The Treasurer presented the Treasurer’s report for December 2025.

The following invoices approved by Exec in December 2025 and January 2026 were noted:

- Yarra Bookkeeping Inv 2535 – December bookkeeping \$ 385.00 (inc GST)

MOTION: That the Treasurer’s report for January 2026, and 1 invoice noted by Executive for payment in February 2026 be noted

Moved: Cr Alex Makin
Seconded: Mr Ross Evans

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

- Nil

8. Up Coming Meeting Topics

2026

1 April - Prof Simon Kingham – Canterbury University - the impact of the urban environment on wellbeing, with a specific focus on transport

9. General Business

9.1 Ambassador reports

Cr Wade spoke about the Vulnerable Road User Forum which she attended as MTF’s Walking Ambassador. She said approximately 15 council people were at the forum. The work included looking at various vulnerable road user categories including walking, cycling and motorcycling. It was noted that pedestrian fatalities are increasing.

While there were no new ideas proposed at the forum, there was strong support for implementation of 30kmph speed limits across residential streets, and the funding of Strategic Cycling Corridors. Cr Wade is expecting a report from the forum in due course, and will update members.

Cr Wade suggested that Road Safety Victoria could be invited to present to the members at a future meeting.

9.2 Ambassador vacancies

Cr Liz Irvin (Merri-bek) has nominated to be Accessibility Ambassador.
Cr Anthony Walter (Casey) has nominated to be train ambassador.

Cr Makin has advised he will step down from the tram ambassador role – nominations are welcome.

Motion: That Cr Liz Irvin be appointed at MTF Accessibility Ambassador, and that Cr Anthony Walter be appointed as MTF Train Ambassador

Moved: Cr Ruth Jelley

Seconded: Cr Kay Rimbardo

CARRIED

10.1 Melbourne Airport Rail Link

Members were invited to send questions they might have for the project to the Executive Officer. She will work with the M9 Executive Officer to engage with the MARL. Please send your questions by 20 March.

10.2 Port Phillip Transport Motion

Cr Makin will share the recent Port Phillip motion which will be circulated to members. The motion identified previous commitments which had not been delivered, and issues which Port Phillip is currently advocating on. This has resulted in some coverage by the Herald-Sun. The motion included approximately 150 matters.

10.3 Next Advocacy Meeting (in May)

It was suggested that we could invite other transport interest groups such as VTAG, and RFI. The executive will discuss this.

9 Meeting closed 7:55 pm