



PO Box 89, Elwood, VIC 3184
incorporation number: A0034315X ABN: 18 683 397 905
Contact: mtf@mtf.org.au MTF website: www.mtf.org.au

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

1. Welcome and introduction

The meeting commenced with an acknowledgement of country.

Present:

Note:

Chris Phiniefs	City of Bayside
James Golub	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
Ed Zhao	City of Glen Eira
Tim DeRuitjer	City of Hobsons Bay
Alex Leung	City of Hume
Alex Reid	City of Kingston
Cr Anna Chen	City of Manningham
Nicoletta Kormas	City of Manningham
Cr Rafael Camillo	City of Melbourne
Augustus Brown	City of Melbourne
Harry Markou	City of Melbourne
Cr Brandi Morris	City of Melton

Michael Smith	City of Melton
CR Liz Irvin	City of Merri-bek
Sandra Worsnop	City of Monash
Phil Burn	City of Moonee Valley
Damir Agic	City of Moonee Valley
Cr Max Patton	Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Peter Bourlotos	Shire of Mornington Peninsula
Cr Naomi Joiner	Shire of Nillumbik
Karen Roache	City of Port Phillip
Russell Tricker	City o Whittlesea
Melissa Falkenberg	City of Wyndham
Tomas Lightbody	City of Yarra
Guests	
Prof Simon Kingham	University of Christchurch
Associates	
David Stosser	Urban Transit Solutions
Julian Salzmann	Movement and Place
Rachel Carlisle	DTP
MTF	
Jane Waldock	MTF
Greg Day	MTF

Apologies

Cr Matt Wood – Bamyule	Jon Liston – Brimbank
Cr Sophie Wade – Yarra	Ross Evans – Monash
Cr Daniel English – Hume	

2. Acceptance of Minutes of 11 March 2026 meeting

The minutes from the 11 March 2026 meeting were adopted.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2026 be adopted.

Moved: Cr Ruth Jelley

Seconded: Ms Melissa Falkenberg

CARRIED

3. Update on Strategic Advocacy

The EO provided an update on bus research workshops organized by Movement and Place, scheduling sessions for April 8th and 14th.

Mr Day reported on town hall forums, noting that expressions of interest had been received from six councils with plans to hold sessions in late July to mid-September.

4. Presentation: Professor Simon Kingham: Streets for People or Roads for Cars: How low cost changes can reap big benefits.

Professor Simon Kingham, Professor of Geography at the University of Canterbury and former Chief Science Advisor at the Ministry of Transport, presented on the topic of streets for people versus roads for cars,

Simon focussed on low-cost changes that can yield significant benefits. He started by explaining that we should discuss “streets” not “roads” to emphasise their use for activity, not just transport. He discussed reframing streets as places for people rather than primarily for vehicles, citing research from Donald Appleyard that demonstrated how higher traffic volumes correlate with reduced social interactions and neighbourly connections. (reference: “Liveable Streets” by Donald Appleyard) Simon shared findings from studies in New Zealand showing similar patterns to Appleyard’s 1970s research, with lighter traffic streets facilitating more community engagement and social interactions.

Street Usage and Community Engagement

Simon shared personal experiences and research findings about street usage and community engagement. He described how temporary road closures in Christchurch allowed residents to use streets for recreation, including basketball and cricket, without compromising safety. The research (see Journal of Transport and Health <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jth.2020.100872>) found that such closures led to better neighbour relationships and increased active travel, with most residents supporting permanent closure to through traffic despite some inconveniences. Simon used the example of how installing a basketball hoop on his street created a social space for children to interact, demonstrating how streets can serve multiple purposes beyond vehicle traffic.

Urban Bumping and Gathering Spaces

Simon discussed the importance of creating “bumping and gathering spaces” in urban areas, referencing research with Karen Banwell’s PhD on features that make streets pleasant. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wss.2022.100124>). He shared examples from Vancouver, Christchurch, and Barcelona where streets have been redesigned to restrict through traffic, creating spaces for social interaction, recreation, and exercise. Simon emphasized how these changes are particularly important in densely populated areas where private green space is limited, allowing for increased city density while still providing public spaces for community engagement.

Street Redesign and Cycling Priorities

Simon presented examples of street redesigns in Christchurch, Auckland, and other cities, demonstrating how streets can be repurposed to prioritise people over cars. He shared research by Tanya Smith (<https://doi.org/10.26021/15860>) showing that public opposition to street changes often subsides after implementation, suggesting that trials can be effective.

Simon emphasised the importance of making cycling feel safe, particularly for the “interested but concerned” group who could make up a significant portion of potential cyclists. He also addressed myths about cycleways, including their impact on house prices, which research has shown to be either positive or neutral rather than negative.

Cycleways Benefits and Community Impact

Simon presented on the benefits of cycleways, citing high benefit-cost ratios and evidence that cyclists spend more retail dollars. (<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/research/reports/449/docs/449.pdf>).

He discussed a case in Wellington where businesses blamed cycleways for closures, but a journalist found the cafes were not near cycle lanes. Simon emphasized the importance of viewing streets as places for people rather than just cars, noting that while some drivers may dislike changes, residents often benefit from low-traffic streets.

<https://sydney.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/The-business-case-for-walking-and-cycling.pdf>

<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/content/dam/uoc-main-site/documents/pdfs/other/geography-repository/GEOG309-15-Travel-modes-and-expenditure-patterns---South-Colombo.pdf>

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a74ad3aed915d7ab83b5a59/value-of-cycling.pdf>

Public Consultation Methodology Discussion

Simon discussed effective consultation practices for sustainable transport initiatives. Simon shared Christchurch's experience of conducting broad city-wide consultation after the 2011 earthquakes, which resulted in overwhelming public support for reduced traffic, cycling, and walking infrastructure.

Simon emphasised the importance of genuine trials and proper consultation to address community concerns while noting that sometimes the broader public good may outweigh local opposition. He recommended participatory democracy approaches such as people's assemblies to effectively change public opinion.

Simon recommended making research submissions publicly available and being transparent about the process to build trust, rather than relying solely on external consultants. He suggested innovative approaches to reach underrepresented groups, including engaging university students in public submissions as part of their coursework. The discussion also covered the effectiveness of shared paths versus separated paths for cyclists and pedestrians, with Simon noting that shared paths are generally least favoured by both groups, particularly on busy roads.

5. Council Information Sharing

5.1 Wyndham Active Transport Updates

Melissa Falkenberg, Manager of Transport and Sustainability at Wyndham City Council, presented an update on the council's active transport initiatives and infrastructure projects. She highlighted key achievements including the refresh of the Wyndham Active Transport Strategy, delivery of over 63 kilometres of new paths, and successful implementation of electric vehicle charging stations.

Melissa also shared data from a recent shared use path project showing a significant increase in daily users from 150 to 800, and outlined major advocacy priorities including electrification of the Wyndham Vale train line and the Outer Metropolitan Transport

Corridor. Cr Bernadette expressed interest in learning more about how the usage data could be linked to Wyndham's municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

5.2 Boroondara Transport Motions

Cr Ibuki presented two MAV motions regarding transport advocacy and shared details about Boroondara's Greenways project, which is currently open for public consultation.

Boroondara's motions are below:

- **“That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocate to the Victorian Government and the Hon Gabrielle Williams (Minister for public Transport) to establish a Ministerial committee to oversee the implementation of the Victorian Government nominated Strategic Cycling Corridors, with an initial focus on the Primary Route (C1) projects. The Ministerial committee will have scope to engage state government departments, state authorities, Bicycle Network and local governments to scope, design, consult with relevant stakeholders, cost and implement projects for broad community benefit.” and**
- **“That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocate to the Victorian Government to provide an update and future budget commitment to implement the findings of Victoria's Bus Network Reform – Melbourne North -eastern suburbs to ensure access improvements are provided in the context of increased housing density and North East Link busway implementation.”**

6. Regular reports

6.1 – Treasurer's Reports

The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's report for February 2026.

The following invoices approved by Exec in March 2026 were noted:

- Yarra Bookkeeping - Inv 2569 – March 2026 bookkeeping \$ 385.00 (inc GST)
- Edunity – Invoice 3675 - Retainer Sep-Feb and website \$ 2,857.25 (inc GST)
- JWUrban Invoice 202602 – Secretariat January and February \$ 6,327.56 (inc GST)

MOTION: That the Treasurer's report for February 2026, and 3 invoices noted by Executive for payment in March 2026 be noted

Moved: Cr Ruth Jelley

Seconded: Ms Melissa Falkenberg

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

- Nil

8. Up Coming Meeting Topics

2026

13 May – Advocacy session – the focus for this session will be how members can collaborate with other members, and advocacy groups to achieve their transport advocacy objectives.

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

9. Ambassador Reports/Appointments

9.1 Vulnerable Road User Forum – report back

The EO reported that Cr Wade (MTF Walking Ambassador) had received no further information following the forum in early March

9.2 Ambassador reports

Ambassador Roles and Updates

The meeting discussed updates on ambassador roles, with Councillor Makin stepping down as Tram Ambassador.

9.3 Bus Forum Planning Sub-committee

Members were invited to nominate to assist in planning for the 2026 Bus Forum.

10. General Business

10.1 Melbourne Airport Rail Link

Members were reminded 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 to the EO.

11. Meeting closed 7:36 pm