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Minutes – General Meeting  
6:15 pm Wednesday, 13 May 2026  
By Zoom  
Chair: Cr Bernadette Thomas

1. Welcome and introduction

The meeting commenced with an acknowledgement of country.

**Present:**

**Note:**

Michelle Herbert	City of Banyule
Chris Phiniefs	City of Bayside
Cr Joh Bauch	City of Brimbank
Khan Nguyen	City of Boroondara
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
Alex Leung	City of Hume
Alex Reid	City of Kingston
Cr Anna Chen	City of Manningham
Nicoletta Kormas	City of Manningham
Shane Cutland	City of Manningham
Cr Bernadette Thomas	City of Maribyrnong
Augustus Brown	City of Melbourne
Cr Brandi Morris	City of Melton
Sheida Roshankhan	City of Melton
Simon Stainsby	City of Merri-bek
Cr 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 John Dumaresq	Shire of Nillumbik
Ayman William	Shire of Nillumbik
Vesna Pismanovska	Shire of Nillumbik
Cr Alex Makin	City of Port Phillip
Karen Roache	City of Port Phillip
Cr Daniel Griffiths	City of Whitehorse
Russell Tricker	City o Whittlesea
Melissa Falkenberg	City of Wyndham
Tomas Lightbody	City of Yarra
<b>Guests</b>	
Adam Bain	Better Buses
Sarah Pilgrim	Victoria Walks
Luisiana Paganelli	
<b>Associates</b>	
David Stosser	Urban Transit Solutions
Tom Ranger	Movement and Place
<b>MTF</b>	
Jane Waldock	MTF
Greg Day	MTF

### Apologies

Cr Shima Ibuki – Boroondara	Paul Bezemer – Brimbank
Cr Naomi Joiner – Nillumbik	Ross Evans – Monash
Cr Sophie Wade – Yarra	
Cr Sharon Harrison – Yarra	
Cr Liz Irvin – Merri-bek	
Cr Nat Aboud- Merri-bek	
Cr Preet Singh – Wyndham	

## 2. Update on Strategic Advocacy

The group discussed the bus research report prepared by Movement and Place consultants, with participants sharing their feedback and noting that recent budget announcements only addressed a small portion of the recommendations.

Members highlighted that the report provided a detailed vision for future improvements.

It was also noted that the 2026 State budget included one unexpected recommendation regarding bus route 273.

Members were invited to provide feedback on Movement and Place report by May 22<sup>nd</sup> to the EO.

### 3. Acceptance of Minutes of 1 April 2026 meeting

The minutes from the 1 April 2026 meeting were adopted.

**MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2026 be adopted.**

Moved: Ms Melissa Falkenberg

Seconded: Cr Ruth Jelley **CARRIED**

### 4. Council Information Sharing

#### 5.1 Banyule

Ms Herbert presented on transport initiatives in Banyule, highlighting major projects including the North East Link and M80 Ring Road, along with advocacy wins such as new shared user paths and sports field upgrades achieved as part of the North East Link Big Build project. She discussed Banyule's new transport planning strategy, active travel programs, Bicycle policy Implementation including \$200k annual funding for implementation, Walking Circuit Maps, and Banyule's new car share policy.

#### 5.2 Manningham

Mt Cutland and Ms Kormas presented updates on Manningham's draft Active Transport Strategy and Better Bus Services currently out for public consultation. The strategy aims to increase active transport usage in Manningham by updating previous strategies from 2011 and 2013, focusing on infrastructure, programs, and education. Key challenges identified include car dependency, population forecasts, and reduced car parking rates for new builds.

Ms Kormas outlined advocacy efforts for improved bus routes and a feasibility study for a high-frequency busway along the Doncaster Road corridor, seeking \$500,000 in funding from the state government.

Both consultations will run until May 31st for the Active Transport Strategy and June 7th for Better Bus Services, with community feedback being collected through various channels including social media and advisory committees.

### 5. Advocacy Partner updates

#### 5.1 Victoria Walks

Ms Pilgrim, CEO Victoria Walks, provided an update on the development of VW's new strategic direction, which is expected to focus on systems change rather than behaviour change, aiming for a 25% mode shift to active transport by 2030, and halving pedestrian deaths by the same year.

She shared VISTA data analysis which shows only a minor increase in walking trips from 16% to 17%, with concerns about declining walking distances and inequities in pedestrian safety.

Ms Pilgrim noted this data shows there is a long way to go to achieve the 25% goal. The report can be read at: <https://www.victoriawalks.org.au/research/#walking-in-melbourne-2025-update>

The data also shows that the average distance walked has decreased from 660m to 630m. Ms Pilgrim noted that local walking networks success are greatly impacted by such things as gaps in the network (which may be small), indirect routes, and poor crossing facilities.

The data does show an increase in the amount of walking for education, although it is not clear whether this represents primary, secondary or tertiary students, or combinations.

Ms Pilgrim also spoke about recent work for AustRoads looking at inequities in pedestrian outcomes; people older than 65 are 2.5 x more likely to die as a result of a pedestrian accident.

Victoria Walks is advocating to reduce bonnet heights. Cr Jelley noted that this topic is being considered as a strategic motion at ALGA, calling for a change in safety assessments for high-fronted vehicles, due to the number of councils raising the issue.

## **5.2 Better Buses**

Mr Bain from Better Buses reported on their successful campaign for increased bus services and upcoming election activities, including a presentation on bus electrification versus service expansion.

More information drawn from polling and market research will be shared with the MTF once analysis has been completed.

Better Buses' election strategy will be around getting commitment to increase bus funding. Interested councils are invited to contact the Better Buses campaign.

## **6. Advocacy Workshop - Breakout Groups**

Members divided into five breakout groups according to which metropolitan region their council is mainly located within, and discussed what issues crossed their municipal borders, and could potentially be part of an advocacy collaboration.

North: Strategic Cycling Corridors, bus reform, accessibility, rail electrification, and bus reform. Council officers in this group will meet to consider who to connect with to get the Northern Bus Review implemented.

North-East: Better Bus Services Advocacy Campaign

South: Activity zones and growth area focus, specific bus routes such as the 246, consolidated weekend timetable for buses to provide extended hours, and higher frequency services.

South-East: Road freight along the Mornington Peninsula; extension of rail to Clyde, and provision of passing sections on the Stoney Point line, the 828 bus, and shared user paths along rail corridors to link disconnected paths.

West: electrification of Melton line; bus services provide extended hours, and higher frequency services, EV charges, Melbourne Airport Rail Group, Lead West priorities – Western Rail Plan, and the need for bus network reform.

Groups will be invited to present on their collaborations/alliances at the July meeting.

## 7. Regular reports

### 7.1 – Treasurer’s Reports

The Chair presented the Treasurer’s report for March 2026.

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

- Yarra Bookkeeping - Inv 2598 – April 2026 bookkeeping \$ 385.00 (inc GST)

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

Moved: Cr Kay Rimbaldo

Seconded: Cr Alex Makin

**CARRIED**

## 8. Ambassador Reports/Appointments

### 8.1 Tram Ambassador

**Motion: That Cr Shima Ibuki be appointed as MTF Tram Ambassador.**

Moved: Cr Anna Chen

Seconded: Cr Ruth Jelley

**CARRIED**

## 9. General Business

### 9.1 2026 ALGA

Feedback was invited if members are attending ALGA in June.

It was noted that there are many motions proposed around active and sustainable transport issues. A number of these have been consolidated into strategic motions.

Members were encouraged to discuss transport motions with colleagues at the conference to enable motions to be carried.

## 10. Up Coming Meeting Topics

3<sup>rd</sup> June: speaker TBA.

8<sup>th</sup> July: Advocacy session

## 11. Correspondence

- Letter to Minister Shing (attached to agenda papers)

## 12. Meeting closed 7:55 pm