Boroondara BUG Meeting, 7.00pm, Wednesday 10th November 2021

By Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance: Glennys Jones, Peter Campbell (Chair), Philip Mallis, John Parker, Julia Blunden, David Farrow, Gordon Macmillan, Graham Ellis, Ken Parker, David Hall, Mal Faul

Apologies: Peter Carter, Cr Susan Biggar, Cr Victor Franco, Kate Prest

Minutes of October Meeting: Accepted.

Correspondence
In
- Sundry emails from other BUGs including newsletters, and links to surveys
- Sundry commercial offers

Out
- BUG co-signatory to COP26 Cycling letter

Matters arising

1. **North East Bicycle Corridor and North East Link**: Glennys Jones reported that the contractor has been selected. Basic plans are now available. The next Community Liaison Group meeting is scheduled for 19/11. It seems that there are some improvements for cyclists with the longer tunnel now planned. There was some discussion of the bridge at Roseneath St. Glennys will follow up on this issue with the CLG, and will also ask when further community consultation is planned. Glennys has still to write the letter about electric buses.

2. **Walmer St Bridge:** Philip Mallis recused himself from discussion of this agenda item. It was noted that the colour of the bridge, heritage red, is to be retained. Jim Hondrakis has put in a planning application for the works on the Boroondara side. Glennys will write a submission in support of this.

3. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** Peter Campbell attended the last Community Respresentative Panel meeting. He said that it was just for show and nothing of substance happened. The Panel is now disbanded. There are calls for people to join a Construction Design Group. It would be most useful if another BUG member with an engineering background could take up this invitation. Peter is still trying to arrange a meeting with Jacinta Allen.

4. **Toorak Rd Crossing on Anniversary Trail:** Glennys Jones reported that she and her husband have both had near misses at this crossing recently. She has reported this to Council and Clare Davies is looking into whether the lights can be tweaked to give pedestrians and cyclists a head start. Glennys has been communicating with MP Will Fowles and his PA. Work on the business case has now started and the scopeof the project has now been extended to include rectification of the tortuous level crossing to the north of Toorak Rd. Will Fowles suggested that we can expect further good news mid-2022. Glennys has also spoken to Bruno ? about the need to fix the level crossing.

5. **Gardiners Creek Underpass at Toorak Rd:** Council has agreed to put up a sign with a phone number to report problems. No other progress has been made.

6. **Shared Path / Local intersection priorities:** It was agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda.

7. **Ferndale Trail – Need for widening and realignment between Summerhill and Ferndale Rds**: There have been lots of issues on this section caused by recent heavy rains. We need to follow up on this at the next CAC meeting.

8. **Boroondara Bicycle Strategy:** It was agreed that we need to ensure that all our issues are marked on Philip Mallis' BBUG Future Network Map, see https://umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/bbug-draft-of-boroondara-bike-network-future_658199#13/-37.8292/145.0798 There was agreement that we don't want wide kerbside lanes included in the network. Members should ask for help with marking up the map if they need it

9. **Frog Hollow to Ferndale Trail:** Glennys Jones reported that the tennis club at 1084 Toorak Rd is now closed and boarded up, blocking public access along the creek. Council needs to acquire a section of land along the creek to provide a public route between Denman Ave and Toorak Rd. Glennys has emailed Cr Franco about this but has not yet had a reply. Graham Ellis raised the issue of the building site between Toorak Rd and Camberwell Rd, which lies on part of this route. It was agreed that the whole route needs to be added to the network map.

10. **Guide Dogs- change to access arrangements:** Nil to report

11. .**Pop-Up Bike Lanes:** Philip Mallis reported that designs have now been released for the new lanes in Maribyrnong. There are as yet no plans for any pop-up lanes in Boroondara.

12. **Revision of Boroondara TravelSmart Map**: It was agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda.

13. **Developments at Box Hill Central:** Nil to report

14. **Web Site and Slack:** Kate Prest wasn't present.

15. **Victorian BUGS Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 24th November by Zoom. John Parker, David Blom and Philip Mallis are presenting on different methods of naming and signing cycle routes. Peter Campbell will write up a proposal on including Strategic Cycling Corridors in Land Use Frameworks for the meeting's consideration. Julia Blunden will send out a reminder a week before the meeting.

16. **DoT feasibility study for HTBHT – Do we want another walk through?** There was general frustration expressed at the Do T's failure to release the full report of their study. Philip Mallis suggested that we could use FOI to get it. Another option suggested was to ask an MP to ask a question in Parliament. It was agreed that Greens MP Sam Hibbins might be willing to do this. Peter Campbell agreed to follow up on these options.

17. **Opening of Old Heidelberg Rd Reservation to the Public**: It was agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda. David Hall reported on plans for the Farm Rd connection to the Darebin Creek Trail and said that negotiations with LaTrobe Golf Club are continuing.

18. **Free Membership Database:** Julia Blunden has emailed Kate Prest about this and she has agreed to look into it.

19. **Twitter Account and Facebook:** Peter Campbell has been posting on our Facebook page and showed some recent posts to the meeting.

20. **Treasurer's report:** Mal Faul reported that at the end of the September quarter the BUG had $1,416.08 in the cheque account, and $3,827.28 in a term deposit.

New Business

1. **Speed Limit Reductions:** Philip Mallis suggested that the speed limit in Willsmere Rd should be reduced from 60kph to 50kph. He said that a number of other Council roads should have the same speed limit reduction, including Auburn Rd. It was agreed that it is desirable that all residential streets should have speed limits reduced to 40kph, with a long-term goal of a further reduction to 30kph. Philip will circulate his suggestions to members.

Other Business

1. **Reverse Priority Crossings – Need to use opportunities to construct these in conjunction with other works**: It was agreed that work done in Connor St was a wasted opportunity for such a conversion. We need to alert Council to the need for identifying such opportunities in the future. John Parker agreed to write to Council about this.

2. **New Burwood Hwy Trail Link Opening:** The opening of this link, an MeBUG project, was scheduled for Sunday 13/11. John Parker expressed concern that there would not be a very good attendance, and offered to write to the local MP congratulating him/her on these works. David Hall reported that MeBUG badly need new members. Julia Blunden suggested writing a piece about this for *Eastsider News*.

3. **Next CAC meeting:** It was agreed that we will ask for another meeting sometime in early December. Julia Blunden agreed to send a request, cc'ing Crs Biggar and Franco.

4. **Suburban Rail Loop:** A new station is planned for the Deakin Burwood Campus, just south of the Burwood Hwy. MeBUG is pushing for an underpass at Burwood Hwy but Glennys Jones reported that the current plan is for an overpass as this will be less costly. Submissions are invited on Engage Victoria see https://engage.vic.gov.au/srl-east-iac Members should respond urgently putting the case for an underpass, which would be much better for cyclists, as well as pedestrians.

Next Meeting: 7pm, Wednesday, 8th December 2021

Notes prepared by Julia Blunden