

## **Boroondara BUG Meeting, 7.30pm, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**By Zoom**

### **MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Glennys Jones, Peter Campbell (Chair), John Parker, Julia Blunden, Ken Parker, Betty Weeks, David Farrow, Cr Susan Biggar, Kate Prest

**Apologies:** Peter Carter, Cr Victor Franco, Philip Mallis, Mal Faul

**Minutes of December Meeting:** Accepted.

#### **Correspondence**

##### **In**

- Sundry emails from other BUGs including newsletters, and links to surveys
- Sundry commercial offers
- Response letter to the Combined BUGs from the Department of Transport

##### **Out**

- Objection to Vicinity Planning Permit Applications 21 - 27 Market St Box Hill sent to the Premier and Ministers Allen, Carroll, Wynn and cc'd to MP Paul Hamer

#### **Matters arising**

1. **North East Bicycle Corridor and North East Link:** Glennys Jones attended a CRG meeting last week. There have been a number of delays to the project due to COVID. One is the reconstruction of the Freeway Golf Course. It was agreed that the issue of the Koonung Creek Trail priority crossing of the entry road needs to be raised at the forthcoming CAC meeting, as this needs to be done by November and needs to be funded in the upcoming budget. The Urban design for the northern end to the interchange section of the NE Link should be out for public consultation about August. Glennys expressed concern about the Bulleen Rd bike path crossing, as it is important that this connects properly to the next section. John Parker showed a proposed design for an elevated path along the NE Bicycle Corridor crossing the Yarra. It's not clear if this design is the final one or not.
2. **Walmer St Bridge:** Glennys Jones reported that there were major developments over the Christmas holiday period. Both Boroondara and Yarra councils have employed consultants to design ramps at their respective ends of the bridge. Glennys and Chris Star were consulted about the proposed designs. There was an issue with a proposal to taper the ramp at the Yarra end, which needs to be 4m wide all the way. This has now been approved. Glennys also requested that wheel gutters be provided in the short set of steps up to the plaza, and that another, longer set of steps have the two sections offset for greater safety.
3. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** Peter Campbell reported that he has had no luck arranging a meeting with Jacinta Allan. Nor did the combined BUGs letter get much traction. Access to cross section diagrams continues to be denied. Peter raised the issue of the huge amount of federal money, ca \$50M, that Josh Frydenberg has allocated to station car parks, many unwanted by locals. This would be enough to pay for the whole HTBHT. BUGs need to advocate for federal funding for cycling projects. See <https://bit.ly/3uCsUw7>
4. **Toorak Rd Crossing on Anniversary Trail:** Nil to report.
5. **Gardiners Creek Underpass at Toorak Rd:** Glennys Jones had reported silting from recent heavy rain the previous day. She said that the sandbank, not surprisingly, is reappearing.

6. **Ferndale Trail – Need for widening and realignment between Summerhill and Ferndale Rds:** Council has notified the BUG of planned reconstruction of this section of the trail. The plan was for a 3m bitumen path with concrete edges, like most of Boroondara’s shared paths. Several BBUG members have written emails suggesting the use of sand coloured concrete, and realignment of the path to avoid the low spot which frequently floods. It seems that the traffic officers may be willing to move on this. Another item for the CAC meeting.
7. **Boroondara Bicycle Strategy:** A stakeholder workshop is to be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Peter Campbell and John Parker will represent BBUG at this. John Parker agreed to collate feedback on the draft strategy from members. Cr Susan Biggar suggested that it would be good for BUG members in different areas of Boroondara to contact their local councillors with positive feedback on the relevant parts of the draft strategy. Glennys Jones agreed to do a Facebook post to encourage this.
8. **Frog Hollow to Ferndale Trail:** Another item for the CAC meeting. Funding is needed in budget for land acquisition.
9. **Guide Dogs- change to access arrangements:** Glennys Jones reported that trees and bushes have been cut down for the new entrance, and that the café appears close to completion. Another item for the CAC meeting.
10. **Pop-Up Bike Lanes:** Peter Campbell reported that Stonnington BUG have come up with a list of proposals.
11. **Developments at Box Hill Central:** Nil to report.
12. **Victorian BUGS Meetings 2022:** It was agreed that Julia Blunden should email members asking for suggested agenda items for our next meeting. One item could be ‘How to get federal funding for bicycle infrastructure’. Julia will also set a date in April for the next meeting. There was also a suggestion that we try to get a DoT spokesperson to talk about Planning Scheme amendments to protect strategic cycling corridors.
13. **Web Site and Slack:** Kate Prest said that she needs to liaise with Philip Mallis on this to decide where various documents go. She plans to send out a template on Friday for us to look at.
14. **Free Membership Database:** Mal Faul has already sent Kate Prest his membership list. Julia Blunden offered to send her more up to date list to Kate for cross referencing. Those who sign up will receive BUG agendas and minutes, and it was proposed to also provide material from our Facebook page via a blog.
15. **Twitter Account and Facebook:** Peter Campbell displayed some of the most recent Facebook posts, which have been receiving quite a bit of attention.
16. **Treasurer’s report:** Mal Faul wasn’t present.

#### **New Business**

1. **CAC meeting, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Attendance and Agenda Items:** Several members indicated their intention to participate. A number of agenda items were identified during the meeting. Julia Blunden will circulate a list and ask for any additional items.

#### **Other Business**

1. **Proposed removal of member:** John Parker proposed that John Piesse should be removed from the membership list. He is not only an anti-vaxer, but has had his medical registration cancelled for providing dubious vaccination exemptions. There was majority support for this proposal.

2. **E-scooters:** Julia Blunden asked if the BUG had a view on e-scooters and if we would be prepared to accept users of e-scooters as members. There was general agreement that e-scooters, if used according to the law, are another useful way of reducing the number of cars on our roads, and that we would be prepared to trial riders as members should the opportunity arise.
3. **Great Southern Rail Trail:** Peter Campbell described a recent day ride on this trail, which is currently undergoing extension in both directions. He shared photos and a map of his ride. See <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/38041683>

**Next Meeting:** 7.30pm, Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, by Zoom

Notes prepared by Julia Blunden