

Report on 1.11.19 Meeting of Rail Projects Victoria's Community Reference Group (CRG) for the Arden & Parkville Precincts

NWMA reps: Peter Gerrard and Rachael Palmer

At this meeting there were three community representatives (PG and RP for NWMA, and Robert Moore for the Parkville Association) together with representatives from Rail Projects Victoria¹, the Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP)², Rail Infrastructure Alliance (RIA)³, the City of Melbourne and City West Water. Chris Lovell continues to be the independent chairman of this group.

A. Update on construction of the Parkville station

The Parkville station box has been excavated to its maximum depth (32m) at its eastern end. Work is proceeding on removing the western entrance ramp, while installing struts, ground anchors (tension piles) and pouring the base slab and lining walls. In Q1/20 internal walls and columns will be poured, and in Q2/20 the B slab that forms the roof of the train tunnels. This means that the number of large trucks entering and leaving the site to haul away soil will reduce, and the number of concrete aggregate supply vehicles arriving will increase.

Lane closures: the northbound service lane in Elizabeth St/Royal Parade leading up to Grattan St will be closed from 8 November for approximately 4 weeks.

Tree removal: Three mature elm trees in Royal Parade will be removed, to permit the relocation of gas/water/telephone services: one outside the VC Cancer Centre, and two outside the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

B. Update on construction of the new North Melbourne station at Arden

Construction on the site is proceeding to schedule. The surface ground improvement in Lothian St (lying above the path of the planned tunnels) will continue until April. This largely consists of inserting jet grouting to strengthen the road surface. Health check door knocks with directly impacted residents and businesses took place in October.

Tunneling: TBMs 1 (Joan) and 2 (Meg) will be tunneling from the new North Melbourne station site to the Western Portal (in Kensington) until 1Q/20, when they will be retrieved and transported back to North Melbourne. In the rest of 2020, these TBMs will tunnel from North Melbourne to Parkville.

C. Intake Substation

In March/April 2020, following approval of the Development Plan in early March, it is proposed to install an electrical substation, to supply power to the tunnels and the North Melbourne metro station from the West Melbourne Terminal Station. This substation will replace an existing building on VicTrack land alongside Moonie Ponds Creek.

¹ **Rail Project Victoria** = government agency responsible for delivering the overall Melbourne Metro project, formerly the MMRA.

² **Cross Yarra Partners** = the Melbourne Metro's construction partners.

³ **Rail Infrastructure Alliance** = construction partners for building the portals connecting the Melbourne Metro to the external rail network.

Some tree removals – and tree replacements – will be required, subject to approval, in consultation with the City of Melbourne.

Note: an overview of this project will be presented by CYP, as part of their stakeholder consultation, at the NWMA meeting on Tuesday 19 November.

D. Legacy Art Project

For a change, we had a direct presentation by CYP's coordinator of their commissioned art program. She told us that the indigenous artist(s) chosen to create the line-wide platform art will be announced this month.

For the North Melbourne and State Library stations, the shortlisting process is underway, and five artists will be shortlisted for each station in late 2019. (The shortlisted artists for the Anzac and Parkville stations will be selected by direct invitation.)

The shortlisted artists will be briefed and develop their concepts in early 2020. **Note:** "Stakeholders [including NWMA and Hotham History Project] are invited to provide location-specific information for the shortlisted artists to consider when developing their concepts via an online submission form on the Metro Tunnel website."

At the time of writing, that invitation has not yet been posted on the [relevant Metro Tunnel webpage](#).

E. Other matters

Bus route 505 (Pelham St, Carlton to Moonee Ponds) will not service the RMH stop on the west of Royal Parade during the works there. There will be no changes to the bus routes 401, 402, 403 or 546 connecting to the University of Melbourne.

"The updated tunnel depth and alignment map has been uploaded to the website." The tunnel alignment map is shown [here](#), but at the time of writing I have been unable to find the map showing tunnel depth as well as alignment.

Next Meeting. The second meeting of the combined Arden/Parkville CRG will be held on Friday 13 December at 7.30 am at the Larwill Studio in Parkville.