



Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

*Stewards of the
Pedestrian Master Plan*

Anna Zivarts, Chair
Jennifer Lehman, Vice Chair
Emily Davis, Secretary
Ori Brian
Akshali Gandhi
Bianca Johnson
Emily Mannetti
Esti Mintz
Han-Jung Ko (Koko)
David Seater
Maria Sumner

Board Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2021, 6:00 - 8:00pm

Board Members Present: Anna Zivarts, Emily Davis, Ori Brian, Akshali Gandhi, Bianca Johnson, Emily Mannetti, Esti Mintz, David Seater, Maria Sumner, Han-Jung Ko (Koko)

SDOT Staff: Polly Membrino, Brian Dougherty

Members of the Public: Brian Townley, Alan Daugherty, Inga Manskopf, Ryan Packer, Doug MacDonald, Michael Boykin

Public Comment:

Doug MacDonald: It was distressing to see in the Seattle Times to see that there were 24 fatalities in Seattle (13 pedestrians), and we are not making any progress even though traffic volume is down. It is inexcusable that SDOT is not publishing this data. We need to rethink what we are doing with Vision Zero. I also find that the performance metrics in the plan with regards to safety are either stagnant or going backwards. We are not seeing the progress that we need to have on pedestrian safety.

PMP Implementation Plan Discussion

- Board reviewed statements from SDOT staff regarding the PMP Implementation plan and next steps for SDOT programs and projects related to PMP, sidewalk repair, and other topics.
- Anna: Do we have more information about why the five-year shim and bevel program was scaled back and what that means?
- Brian: Sidewalk program repair manager can come speak to this in the future. It likely has to do with budget cuts.
- Anna: If we were advocating for more funding, how much would need to cover the gap for the scaled back programming?
- Emily Davis: The SDOT five-year shim and bevel plan exceeds available funding at this point, according to the document.
- Anna: When will this tool be available?
- Polly: I will send out the maps and not sure about the tool, but the sidewalk repair team will discuss when they present in the future.
- Bianca: It was good to see this information in the Implementation Plan.
- Akshali: It would be helpful to have someone from sidewalk repair team present.

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor and all the offices of the city on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning insofar as they relate to the pedestrian safety and access.

*-City Council Resolution
28791*

- Emily M: I'm curious about the arterial speed limit change—has there been enforcement? Signs are going up slowly and you don't really see a lot of change on this.
- Brian: Automated enforcement is not allowed on a city-wide basis. Allison Schwartz (from Vision Zero) could present on this topic.
- Anna: I would be interested in having Allison come talk about enforcement because it sounds like SDOT is moving away from enforcement with SPD. Is SDOT moving things like crash data out of SPD like NYC and other cities are doing? It would be good to look at this in a future meeting.
- Brian: The proposal to move parking enforcement to SDOT was not approved by council at the end of 2020. It is maybe leaving SPD, but not coming to SDOT. Allison will be able to speak more to enforcement.
- Emily D: Anna, do you know what NYC is doing to get data instead of routing through SPD?
- Anna: I can send everyone the article—I think it was a proposal and not necessarily happening yet.
- Akshali: What does the issue fee credit mean in this instance?
- Anna: Not totally sure, but I think it has to do with developers fixing sidewalks where they are developing. I am curious to see what the impact of this decision is in the context of sidewalk repair.
- Polly: I asked Jonathan Williams and will report back if I get a detailed response.
- Anna: Does anyone know the history of pedestrian lighting?
- Brian: The program was created around 2008/2009 with seed money, but during the recession the program was cut entirely and was never restored. At this point, it mostly happens if other projects are doing improvements such as funding it through Safe Routes to School in conjunction with a project.
- Akshali: Some of it is also funded through RapidRide or Safe Routes to Transit through King County Metro, but I don't know of any stand-alone programs.
- Anna: I watched a program from WA Traffic Safety Committee about pedestrian deaths and many of them happen in January and December, so it may have to do with lighting. This is something that we could revisit in the future. Also, what is happening with the pilot pedestrian crossing policy?
- Brian: If there are people particularly interested in revising the pedestrian crossing policy, I could work with a subcommittee on this and SPAB could develop a letter to SDOT or something related to that.
- Esti: I would be interested in being on a subcommittee related to that.
- Anna: Yes, this is something we want to engage in.
- Akshali: I'm glad that the delayed projects are still on track to hit targets by 2024.
- Emily D: Sounds like we want to talk to Allison Schwartz, sidewalk repair, and maybe create a subcommittee related to the pedestrian crossing policy.
- Anna: Thinking about students walking and rolling to school, would it make sense to have a joint meeting with the School Traffic Safety Committee?
- Akshali: Yes, I think that would be a fantastic idea. [Other board members agree]
- Polly: I will reach out to School Traffic Safety Committee
- Anna: Do we want to keep looking at the PMP Implementation Plan or do we want to dive into specific areas?
- Bianca: I would find it helpful to go over the report. It would be good to have this for context for the subcommittees. Maybe we can go over our committee report backs and then discuss the PMP progress report.

- Anna: Yes, this is relevant to our subcommittees. We can talk about our subcommittees and then revisit the PMP plan. Any other questions about the PMP before we move on?
- Board agrees to move into the next topic.

Recruitment Strategies and Delegation

Board members will reach out to:
 Georgetown [which orgs?]
 Georgetown Facebook group—Brian
 South Park [which orgs?]
 Duwamish Valley Cleanup—Anna
 Duwamish Safe Streets—Anna
 Somali and East African communities [which orgs?]
 High Point Library—
 High Point Community Center
 Duwamish Tribe and other indigenous advocacy/nonprofit orgs—Anna

Deaf Blind Service Center--Anna
 Lighthouse for the Blind--Anna
 Puget Sound Sage--Anna
 Next Door—Akshali, Koko, Esti, Emily M, Maria
 Sound Steps
 Feet First—Akshali, Anna
 Seattle Neighborhood Greenways--David
 Get Engaged--Ori
 Department of Neighborhoods (Polly)
 Idealist (Polly)
 Senior Centers—Esti

Board Business

Minutes

- Emily D moves to approve the January minutes
 - o Emily M moves to second
 - o Unanimous board approval
- Ori moves to approve retreat minutes
 - o David moves to second
 - o Unanimous board approval

Levy Oversight Committee Update

- Emily M: Jennifer sent notes on the Levy Oversight Committee. Here is a summary of Jennifer's notes:
 - o Patrick (representing the Bike Board) and I shared feedback stemming from the joint Ped Board / Bike Board meeting in January regarding the city's proposal to use levy funds from paused neighborhood greenway projects to make 20 miles of city streets permanent Stay Healthy Streets.
 - o From there, the Levy Oversight Committee weighed in with their own questions, comments, and feedback about the proposal. Here are my notes from the discussion - the meeting minutes haven't been posted yet. Committee comments are in regular text; staff comments are shown in blue italics.
 - o How are the current (temporary) Stay Healthy Streets funded? *Money from initial installation comes from federal COVID relief funds - those funds are tapped out.*
 - o It sounds like a "take it or leave it" choice. Are there other options than the current proposal? *SDOT would likely look towards other BMP and PMP work plans as funding alternatives, if the current proposal isn't approved.*
 - o Current choice puts the onus on the Oversight Committee and modal boards if the Stay Healthy streets go away, but the commitment to make the streets permanent was made without first securing a funding source.
 - o Is there a precedent to take levy funds to fund commitments outside the levy? *Neighborhood greenways was a new development in the Bridging the Gap project*

list. While Stay Healthy Streets won't produce the greenway deliverable, it will enhance them.

- o We ended the discussion by coming to a short-term compromise: the committee and modal boards may be more open to the proposal if we can see actual designs, not inspirational images. Before funds are significantly spent, staff will come back to a future LOC meeting with more details.
- Anna: We can also follow up with Jennifer after because it seems like the conversation is ongoing.

POAG Update

- Emily M: At the last POAG meeting, they presented the executive summary of the eventual policy proposals on how to prioritize modes then there is not enough room in the right of way to accommodate all modes. I can send this plan out to everyone again. The group was generally in favor of the proposed plans. When there is not enough room to accommodate all modes, there are trade-offs. Anna and I are interested in POAG group leaders coming to present to our board. The intent is for us to give the reports to SPAB, but because it is technical it could be good to have POAG leadership present directly to SPAB sooner rather than later.
- Anna: At one point there was the intention to prepare for the Comprehensive Plan update, but it seems like that may be on hold at the moment.
- Emily M: There was a lot of interest in cluttering sidewalks and how we prioritize space. Everyone seemed interested in making sure sidewalks and pedestrian routes are working for different people.
- Anna: Also, a lot of interest in continuing conversation between modal boards.
- Emily M: People were put on the spot and had to participate, which was good for getting a variety of input.
- Anna: Is SPAB interested in getting an update on POAG from SDOT, including signals policy and sharing the space focused policy?
- David: I think it would be great to have them come talk to us because there is a lot of technical information involved, as Emily said.
- Anna: Yes, the signals component is particularly relevant and also technical.
- Emily M: I could use a refresher on this because it has not been discussed since October.

Subcommittee Reports:

Mission Group - Emily M, Ori, Bianca

- Guiding principles document outlines draft guiding principles:
 - a. Support investments that provide safe, accessible, and efficient movements for all pedestrians.
 - b. Ensure investments are made equitably throughout the city—seek opportunities for pedestrian improvements, including user experience and built environment, in communities that have not received adequate/equitable levels of investment.
 - c. Support the greater community through our work by encouraging SDOT to seek meaningful opportunities for input on project and policy decisions.
- Bianca: Guiding principles are not new, they just put down on paper what we have been saying as a board. The manifestations of the guiding principles guide our perspective as we prioritize our goals.

- Ori: We are also interested in feedback from the group and hearing how the board could use these to better engage content in our meetings.
- Emily M: Maybe if SDOT staff know our focus then they can present understanding the areas that we are interested in so we can learn more about how they are doing equitable outreach, etc. Other SPAB members can also comment on the document and the idea is to use this as a lens through which we participate in conversations and presentations.
- Anna: Sounds like next steps are that SPAB can comment on the document if they would like, provide feedback, and then we can vote to have this as an official document at the next meeting.
- Akshali: I think you did a great job. The only thing I might ask if you want to add is the role of community groups and pedestrian/transportation advocacy groups?
- Emily M: SPAB can give us feedback in the next two weeks and we can make edits before the next meeting.

Tactics Group—Maria, Emily D, Anna

- Maria: The tactics group met and came up with a document that prioritizes tactics into three categories: keep doing, do more of, and stop doing.
- The keep doing bucket includes coordinating with community groups, sending letters (proactive and reactive)
- Emily D: Another idea is getting community groups involved when relevant (e.g. if the meeting is about Duwamish Valley, have community groups and residents from that area invited to the meeting)
- In the do more of category: bring people in strategically, get master lists and documents regarding what is/is not happening at SDOT, coordinate with other modal boards, get engaged early in design process, attend transportation committee meetings (stretch goal)
- Make clear goal of each SDOT presentation (e.g. inform, decide, get input/feedback, status update, etc.) so we clearly know what we are looking at
- Stop doing includes presentations on topics that are already fully decided and far along, coming up with new tactics and priorities during the year
- Anna: It's great to see the energy and enthusiasm in this group
- Emily M: It is helpful to see this in the three categories of keep doing, do more of, and stop doing
- Anna: What are the next steps here? Do we want to formally adopt it or use it as a guide or framework?
- Emily M: This could be more of a living document so that we can adjust as we move forward even though we don't necessarily want to come up with new tactics and priorities during the year.
- Akshali: The mission document could be something that is documented formally.
- Anna: We don't have a common place where we are sharing documents.
- SPAB decides to create a Google Drive to house the working documents

Policies and Projects Group – David, Ori, Anna, Akshali

- Anna: We have a document for Ped Board policy/projects for 2021. Maybe we start prioritizing these and set up a calendar for presentations and what to discuss
- Potential topics include: crash reporting/Vision Zero/enforcement, SDOT crossing policy on arterials, School traffic safety issues, Aurora and other WSDOT highways that create

- ped barriers, SDOT signals policy/POAG report, SDOT policy on sidewalk repair, SDOT policy on missing sidewalks, SDOT policy on bike/ped access during construction, mitigation for W. Seattle Bridge car traffic in Duwamish Valley, seamless wayfinding—section of Ped Master Plan (?), pedestrian lighting
- Koko: I was talking to a friend the other day and we were thinking about the effects of COVID-19. Next year we could also consider it as a topic because there will probably be continuing social and economic disparities due to the pandemic. I haven't had public education in the United States, and I am raising a child and realize that I don't know about how COVID will be impacting education and how to get students to school. This could be relevant to many Seattle residents.
 - Emily D: Once we schedule these, it would be nice if anyone has specific questions (like Koko's question about how COVID affects walking to school) then people could add to this document
 - Koko: Also, I am thinking about how COVID affects people with disabilities and how we can promote their health to help them feel safe walking on the street rather than feeling like it is too dangerous to exercise outside due to COVID. We should think about how to make walking more comfortable for older pedestrians and pedestrians with disabilities.
 - Akshali: Related to that, we also want to encourage walking.
 - Koko: Yes, some people may be afraid of walking outside due to COVID so in the following year maybe we can promote getting people outside more to exercise.
 - Anna: This could tie into Stay Healthy Streets, Stay Healthy Blocks, and Keep it Moving Streets and promoting people getting outdoors.
 - Koko: Yes, we can also talk about how SPAB promotes walking during COVID.
 - David: Adding Stay Healthy Streets and Stay Healthy Blocks to this list would be helpful. Some people have been frustrated with the application process for Stay Healthy Blocks.
 - Anna: What is everyone most excited about prioritizing in the first half of the year?
 - Emily M: Based on the mission and tactics, if there are timely things that SDOT knows about (e.g. being able to have input rather than just getting a report on what is happening), it would be good to schedule them so that we have early input. Other things that have a longer shelf life we can plug into agendas as we have time.
 - Anna: Getting the PMP in advance was a nice way to move things more quickly. It would be helpful to have the presentation in advance and questions from SDOT in advance so that we can share that with the community. This would allow us to have a more meaningful and deeper conversation. The leadership team will look at this. Does anyone have ideas for priorities to get on the calendar for March, April, or May?
 - Emily D: I am interested in Allison Schwarz come in to talk about Vision Zero and enforcement and crash reporting
 - Akshali: I am also interested in this
 - Anna: Yes, it would be great to have a Vision Zero presentation and discussion in March to go with the Transportation Equity Workgroup presentation and discussion
 - Maria: We also talked about a POAG presentation and a signal policy. These could fit in as there is room on the agenda.
 - Anna: If POAG recommendation is going to Council, then that would be good to discuss. We can continue this discussion in the workgroup.
 - Akshali: We could also meet with the School Traffic Safety Committee over the summer (possibly in lieu of the field trip) as plans to reopen schools are formed.
 - Emily D: This list is very useful.

- Emily M: Revisiting this list will be good as a look ahead periodically.

Public Comment

Doug MacDonald: The vision of the PMP is that Seattle will be the most walkable city. We still have not seen the ADA transition plan yet. There is also a problem with Vision Zero and we either need to have a program that is reset to recapture the goals of Vision Zero or we need to not have a program. We still have no program from SDOT on sidewalk repair for how the City can help residents with their sidewalk clearing. There is no program to enforce vegetation on sidewalks. I have a neighbor who has parked his trailer for several nights blocking the sidewalk. We have lots of policies, but sidewalks are not accessible at SDOT and I think the Pedestrian Board should advocate for this. The conversation tonight was great, and I just wanted to add these points.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.