

Seattle School Streets Program



Our vision, mission, and core values

Vision: Seattle is a thriving equitable community powered by dependable transportation

Mission: to deliver a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities

Committed to **6 core values:**

- **Equity**
- **Safety**
- Mobility
- **Sustainability**
- Livability
- Excellence

Presentation overview

- Background
- School Streets
 - What are they
 - Who is allowed
 - Where are they
 - Process
- Future

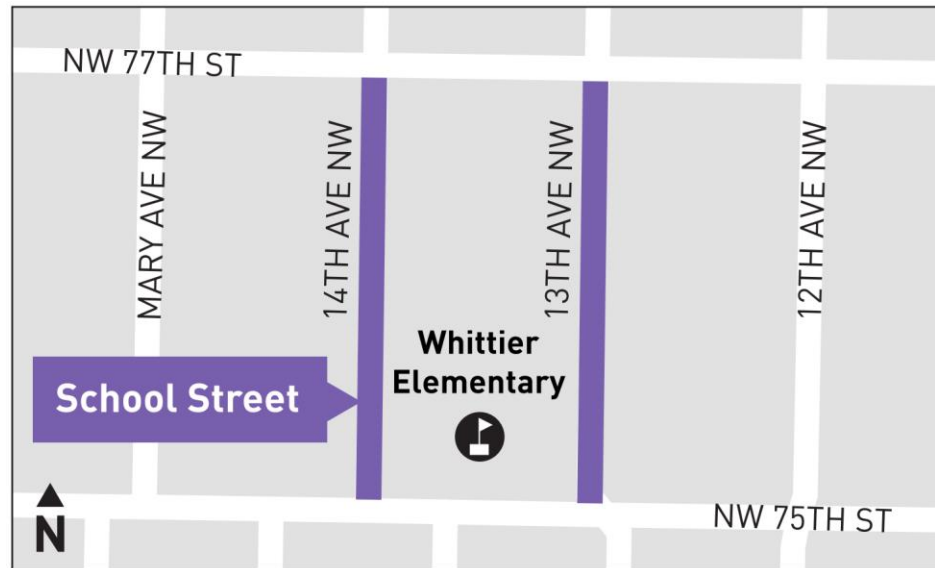


Background

- Schools re-opened in person April 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic with
 - Short notice
 - Two daily start and end times
 - No general education bus service
- What is SDOT doing to support families going back to school?
- Started Stay Healthy Streets program in 2020
- Existing permit for a fee allows timed street closures next to schools

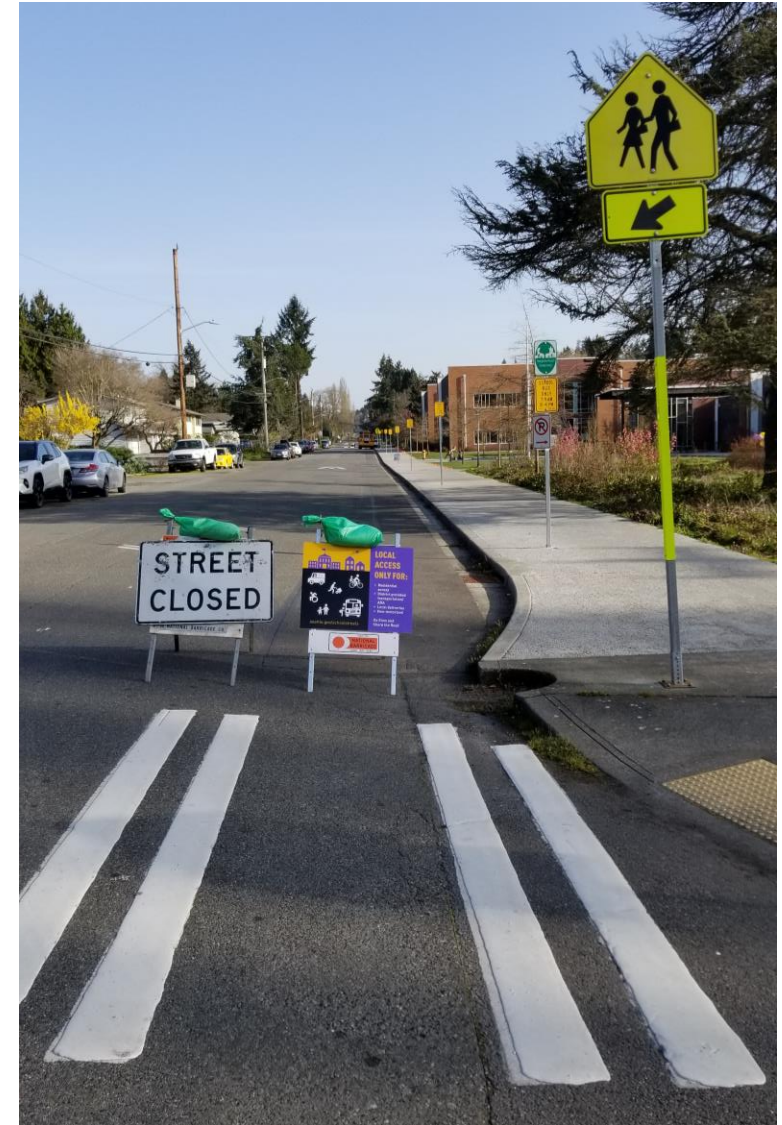
School Streets

- What are they?
 - Close 1-2 blocks adjacent to school
 - Open up to families walking and biking
 - Opt-in only
 - 24/7



School Streets

- School Streets help to:
 - Provide social distancing space
 - Reduce traffic congestion
 - Organize drop-off/pick-up activity
 - Improve air quality
 - Improve safety
 - Encourage walking and biking



School Streets

- Who is allowed?
 - Local access for residents, deliveries, waste pickup, emergency vehicles
 - District provided transportation (school bus, ZUM, taxi, etc.) or students with mobility needs in family vehicle
- Who is NOT allowed?
 - Through traffic
 - Parents



The infographic is divided into two main sections. The top section has a yellow background and features purple icons of a school building with a flag and several residential houses. The bottom section has a black background and features white icons of a delivery van, a person pushing a cart, a person on a bicycle, a person in a wheelchair, a family (parent and child), and a school bus. At the bottom of the black section is the URL seattle.gov/schoolstreets. To the right of the infographic is a purple vertical panel with yellow text.

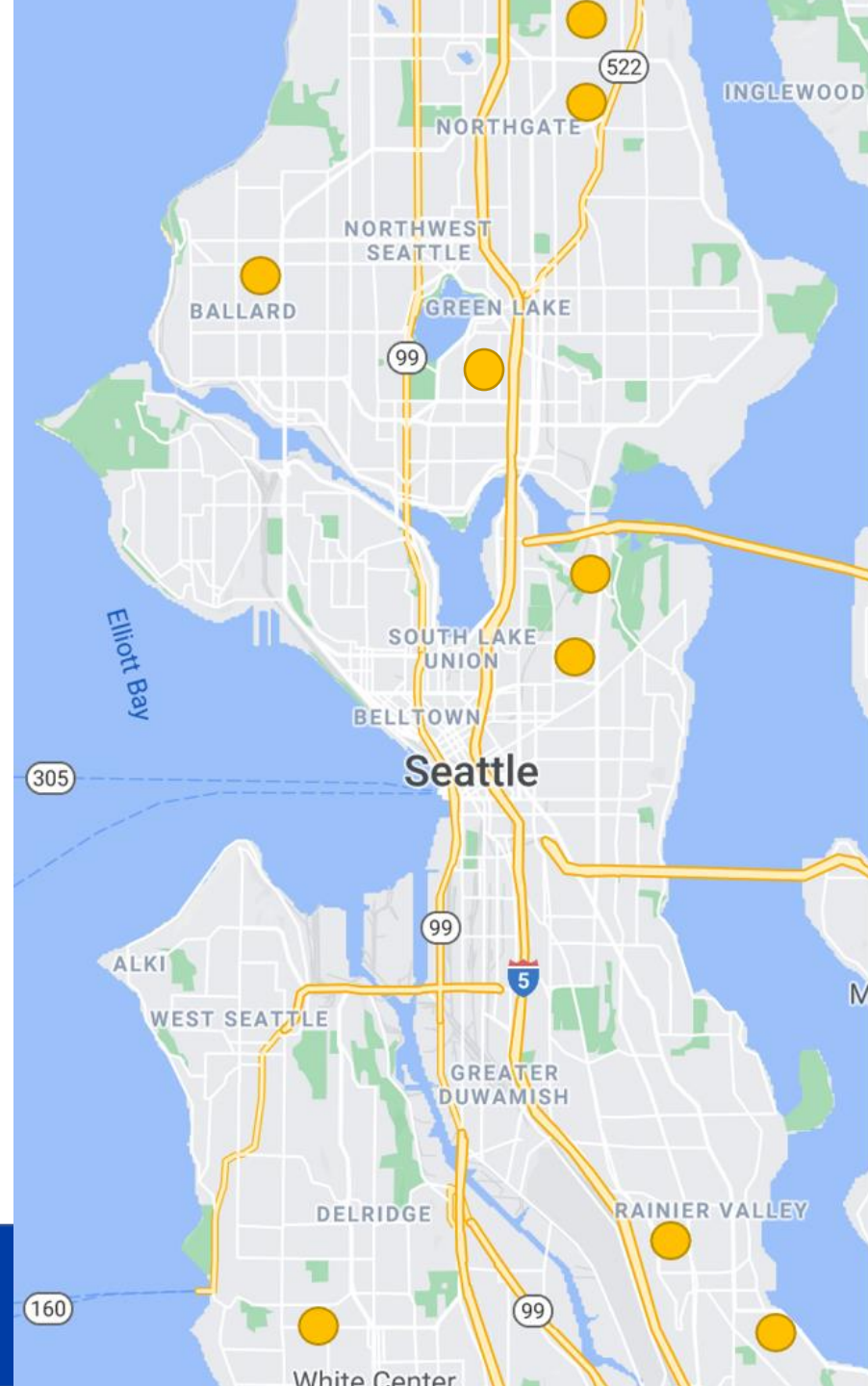
LOCAL ACCESS ONLY FOR:

- Residential access
- District provided transportation/ADA
- Local deliveries
- Non-motorized

Go Slow and Share the Road

School Streets - Where are they?

- Non-arterial streets
- No public bus route
- No new dead-ends
- Spring 2021: 9 public schools (out of approx. 100)



School Streets - Process

- Fill out form on website or contact me
 - All principals and PTAs were notified through District
- Transportation Operations Division
 - Reviews the request on a Sharepoint spreadsheet
 - Approves or sets up meeting to discuss
 - Provides TCP
- Third party (National Barricade) sets up barricades
- Notification: We provide flyers to school and mail postcard to neighbors
- Process can take as little as 1 day

School Streets

- “Street Closed” sign (NOT “Local Access”) removes street priority from vehicles – it’s now okay to walk in the street
- On a request basis only – strong nexus with a need at the school increases parent buy-in and improves neighbor support
 - We do not enforce School Streets
- School identifies the street to close based on their needs and traffic circulation
- SDOT manages the street closure and takes the liability, not schools. For that reason, they were in place 24/7 until end of school year.
 - Schools do not touch the barricades, but notify us of any issues.

School Streets - Future

- Results
 - Anecdotally, in general families have been happy with School Streets
 - Improves the smooth operation of school arrival and departure
 - Less successful at the one Option school that participated, which has a larger draw area and more families that drive
 - SDOT and Schools haven't heard significant concerns from neighbors
- Permanent Option
 - Fall 2021 will start with temporary barricades at participating schools
 - Engage families/neighbors on permanent option
- SPAB/STSC Ask – help get the word out!

Questions?

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www.seattle.gov/schoolstreets

www.seattle.gov/transportation

