



August 28, 2020

To: Sam Zimbabwe, Director SDOT

Re: **“Safe Healthy Bridges for Everyone” Concept Proposal**

The City of Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) supports the [“Safe Healthy Bridges For Everyone”](#) concept proposal written by members of Ballard-Fremont Greenways. The Ballard and Fremont Bridges are funnels for thousands of people every day - the narrow sidewalks are used by walkers, runners, bikes, scooters, and more - many of whom are reliant on these forms of transportation and do not have access to a personal vehicle to cross these bridges.

These bridges, as well as other Seattle bridges (South Park, 1st Ave South, Montlake, Aurora, & Magnolia Bridges) and pedestrian bridges/overpasses (such as Cheasty Blvd crossing MLK and overpasses across Aurora), have never had adequate space for the volume of active transportation traffic they see on a daily basis. Currently, due to COVID and public health guidelines, it is impossible to maintain a safe distance from other people when crossing numerous bridges in Seattle. SDOT has been leading the way with Stay Healthy Streets; this proposal simply extends those concepts to additional essential thoroughfares.

While the proposal recommends specific pedestrian and bicycle improvements to the Fremont and Ballard Bridges, SBAB views this as a timely opportunity for SDOT to pilot these ideas, evaluate them, refine concepts, and investigate applying them to other areas of Seattle. SBAB wants to acknowledge that there are countless areas throughout Seattle, especially in historically underserved areas, that could benefit greatly from creative pilot projects and long term improvements such as this. As more people turn to active transportation (especially when people re-start their commutes), SBAB encourages SDOT to test this idea and look into similar creative improvements in all areas of Seattle.

Sincerely,

Emily Paine
Co-chair

Patrick Taylor
Co-chair

Andrea Lai
Secretary

Cc:
Mayor Durkan
Seattle City Council
Simon Blenski, SDOT

Patrick Taylor, Co-Chair
Emily Paine, Co-Chair
Alex Lew, Co Vice-Chair
Kashina Groves, Co Vice-Chair
Andrea Lai, Secretary
Pierre Brunelle
Gunnar Colleen
Andrew Danneberg
Benjamin Estes
Meredith Hall
Connor Inslee
Sarah Udelhofen

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

- City Council
Resolution 25534