



August 31, 2020

To: Sam Zimbabwe

Re: **Support for and expanding Stay Healthy Streets**

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board fully supports the work by the Mayor and SDOT to initiate the Stay Healthy Streets program in recent weeks during the current pandemic including the permanent closure of 20 miles of streets to through traffic. In conjunction with the Governor's Stay At Home orders, the Stay Healthy Streets program offers many public health benefits including safe physical activity, relief of mental stress, and fresh air for adults and children who need a break from being confined to their homes. It is also consistent with [similar actions being taken in other cities](#).

SBAB strongly supports and encourages you to accept the recommendation by Seattle Neighborhood Greenways (<http://seattlegreenways.org/socialdistancingstreets/>) to expand Stay Healthy Streets from the current 20 miles to a network of approximately 130 miles to provide public health benefits to a substantially larger proportion of Seattle residents. An expanded network of healthy streets that encourages bicycling for transportation would help relieve traffic congestion as we experience economic recovery but many former transit users may choose to drive rather than use public transit. The proposed network would also help reduce the crowding now seen on many of the city's existing multiuse trails because bicycle use has substantially increased during the current pandemic.

The 130 miles of suggested street closures were selected by Seattle Neighborhood Greenways with community input. Further community engagement and review of the specifics of each street by SDOT would be valuable before final choices are made. One of the advantages of these street closures is that they are inexpensive to implement and reversible if any unforeseen consequences occur. Overall, the city would be a better place to live if we rebalance streets for people and reduce the priority that has long been given to motor vehicles.

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



Thank you for your consideration.

**The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board**

**Emily Paine**  
Co-chair

**Patrick Taylor**  
Co-chair

**Andrea Lai**  
Secretary

**Cc:**  
Mayor Durkan  
Seattle City Council  
Simon Blenski, SDOT

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