

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 5, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall Room 370 and Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Recorders: Simon Blenski, SDOT

Bicycle Advisory Board Members Present:

Seat	Members	Present	Absent
		✓	X
1	Yasir Alfarag	✓	
2	Max Green		X
3	Jose Nino	✓	
4	Andrea Lai	✓	
5	Ty Bottorff	✓	
6	Doug Midgen	✓	
7	Donna McBain Evans, Co-Chair	✓	
8	Christine Stawitz	✓	
9	Quinn Kelly		X
10	Peter Bryan, Co-Chair	✓	
11	Joseph Roberts, Secretary	✓	
12	Arya Blourchian, Get Engaged Member	✓	

Meeting Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by SBAB Chair Donna McBain Evans.

Public Comment:

- Stu Hennessey: Hi, I live in West Seattle, and I am happy to see the West Marginal Way SW project starting soon. I did want to suggest extending the west side bike lane all the way to Highland Park Way SW. The current lane configuration shifts a lot. By keeping it as one southbound lane the whole way, you can avoid shifting lanes. It would also avoid having to make bikes cross to the east side and provide a more direct connection to the Highland Park Way SW improvements.
- Gordon Padelford: Hi, I'm with Seattle Neighborhood Greenways. I wanted to share two interesting data points that came out recently. First, 80 percent of bike fatalities happen on streets without bike lanes. Second, the new Commute Seattle survey found that the most important thing that informs how people get around is time. So, when we plan new routes and design bike projects, we need to ensure that they are convenient and allow people to get around quickly.
- Gabriel: I am trying to bike in Seattle. I take the Route 49 bus on Broadway but would like to bike more. I want to see the protected bike lane extend north of Seattle Central College toward 520. It is a big north-south route, but the current connection dumps you out at a busy intersection. Connecting to 520 would provide a direct route in this area of the city.

Presentations:

Seattle Transportation Plan

Ben Rosenblatt and Jonathan Lewis, SDOT

Presentation attached

Discussion:

- Doug: Where does the issue of automatic enforcement fit into the plan? It seems to me that is a worthwhile issue to get into.
 - Jonathan: I do know that reducing speeds is one of the strategies in the plan.
 - Simon: I know a more in-depth look was also identified as an action in the recent Vision Zero Top-to-Bottom Review.
- Pete: One of the main comments in our letter is related to transformational change. It's good to see that was echoed during the broader engagement. However, we did not see that in the draft maps that we reviewed. There are still gaps around the most dangerous streets in the city.
 - Jonathan: We really appreciated your letter, thank you. The last map in December was a very early draft. We started by dropping in the current planned neighborhood greenways, protected bike lanes, and trails. We are now looking to "ungap" the map and looking at ways to overcome major gaps like freeways. The Pedestrian chapter will actually include something you may be interested in, which is to recommend increasing the frequency of crossing locations of arterials. We will include a map that will be closely aligned with the bike network.
- Joseph: I strongly support the parking proposal on slide 15. How can we change the proposal from just considered to being more definite?
 - Jonathan: At this stage we are early on for proposing new program ideas. There will be a review process and the program will need to be funded. That's how we get from considered to recommended to funded.
- Joseph: How can we have influence to get this recommended?
 - Jonathan: We'd like to hear from you during the summer engagement.
- Donna: Thanks for the update and we look forward to seeing the draft plan.

Board Business:

- Approval of February and March meeting minutes:
 - Christine: Motion to approve.
 - Ty: Second.
 - All: Approve.
- Vision Zero letter
 - Pete: Since the Vision Zero presentation in March, some of us have had time to review the Top-to-Bottom Review. Like our review of the STP, we want to provide feedback on the Top-to-Bottom Review. We are hoping to submit a joint letter with the Pedestrian Advisory Board, but for now we have drafted key points that we hope we can approve in concept here tonight. We drafted seven key points:
 - Accelerate project delivery.
 - Understand the value of automated enforcement, while being mindful of equity impacts.
 - Recognize the outsized impact of arterials like MLK, Aurora, and Lake City Way.
 - Prioritize the safety elements of projects before including other elements.
 - Include safety data on all project materials.

- Review all projects to ensure they include safety elements.
 - Recognize that cars are the most dangerous part of our streets and include VMT reduction in our Vision Zero plans.
- Pete: Does anyone have strong feedback on these points?
 - Doug: Recommending replacing “motor vehicles” with “cars and trucks”.
 - Christine: What is the process for circulating the final letter across both boards?
 - Pete: I recommend selecting one or two volunteers from each board to draft the final letter then the draft goes back to the boards for final review.
 - Joseph: To what degree does the Pedestrian Advisory Board agree with our points? Are there differences?
 - Pete: Generally, there is agreement on the key points.
- Pete: Are we ready to approve the letter in concept?
 - Joseph: Motion to approve in concept
 - Ty: Second
 - All: Approve
- LOC update
 - Donna: Quinn is not here so there are no updates.
- Retreat planning:
 - Joseph: We had several questions that we need help answering before we can plan the retreat. First, can this retreat be during a regular meeting time, or a separate time?
 - Simon: It can be either. In the past the board has held retreats during regular meeting times and at other times. The only important thing is that we advertise as a regular public meeting and provide time for public comment.
 - Christine: I suggest we stick to the regular meeting time. Weekends can be difficult.
 - Joseph: I motion to approve having the retreat during a normal meeting time.
 - Donna: Second
 - All: approve
 - Joseph: What outcomes would board members like to see from any retreat?
 - Donna: It would be nice to meet in-person to have a more personal connection. I also want to know how the board can be most effective? What can we do individually and as a board? Lastly, I suggest having 1-2 people adopt a project and serve as a resource/expert when presentations come to the board.
 - Joseph: Want to have a better understanding of how to engage with SDOT between meetings. I also want to get to know everyone better.
 - Pete: How do we expand our engagement with decision makers.
 - Doug: Get to know each other and share our priorities.
 - Christine: Would be nice to have small group discussions and report back to the larger group.
 - Ty: I want to get to know each other better.
- Extending our voice
 - Donna: I put this on the agenda to discuss how we can better engage with Council Members. I met with my Council Member, Andrew Lewis for a 15-minute video call and felt it was a good use of our time. I think we have pretty good representation across the Council Districts, minus West Seattle. I'd like us to prioritize Dan Strauss in District 6 since he is the current co-chair of the Transportation Committee. Second, I'd like to prioritize Tammy Morales in District 2 since the safety needs are greatest there. Is

anyone from those areas interested? We already have talking points will all our recent letters.

- Arya: I'm happy to help for District 2.
- Joseph: I live in District 3, but ride through District 2 a lot and would be happy to help.
- Jose: I am in District 6. Question: How do you talk with your Council Member? I also wanted to mention that I'm not a voting citizen of the US. I know I can talk with them, but just want to mention that.
- Donna: Thanks Jose. I don't think that matters. I would use the recent STP letter and draft Vision Zero letter as talking points.
- Arya: What is the best way to connect with them? And what is the project or agenda?
- Donna: The priority is just to make a connection and establish a relationship if we need help down the road.
- Future agenda items
 - Donna: We are working with Simon to get someone to speak about the Find It Fix It App.
- Announcements
 - None.

Public Comments:

- Avery: I wanted to provide a comment on the Vision Zero talking points. There is lot of talk about automated enforcement, but this just pushes the problem to different locations. Once you go past a speed camera, you can speed up. I want to see more talking points about design changes to reduce conflicts and make streets slower.
- Gabriel: What is the political feasibility of improving bike parking facilities? For new developments, what if we proposed counting bike parking towards parking minimums?

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by interim SBAB Chair Donna McBain Evans.