

## Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 1, 2023  
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Location: City Hall Room 370 and Virtual via Microsoft Teams  
Recorders: Sarah Udelhofen, SDOT

### Bicycle Advisory Board Members Present:

Seat	Members	Present	Absent
		✓	X
1	Yasir Alfarag	✓	
2	Max Green	✓	
3	Nia Ransom	✓	
4	Amy Conroy	✓	
5	Ty Bottorff	✓	
6	Doug Midgen	✓	
7	Donna McBain Evans, Co-Chair	✓	
8	Christine Stawitz		X
9	Vacant		
10	Peter Bryan, Co-Chair	✓	
11	Joseph Roberts, Secretary	✓	
12	Eli Davis, Get Engaged Member	✓	

**Meeting Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by SBAB Co-chair Donna McBain Evans.

### Public Comment:

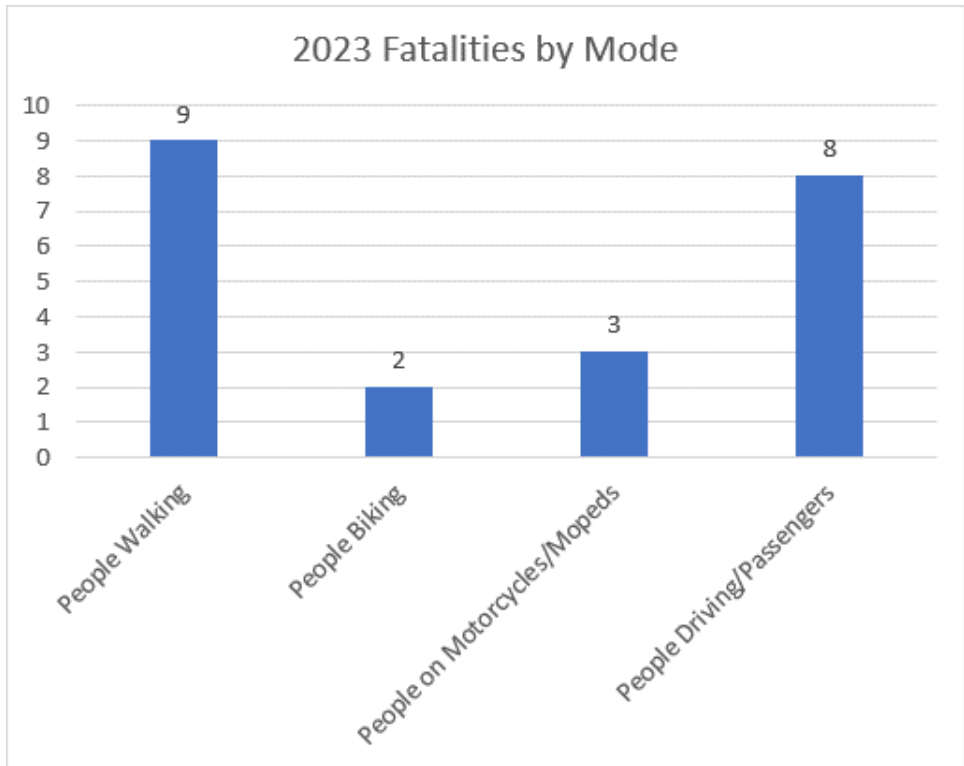
- Peter Breyfogle, resident of Wedgewood area: Would like to comment on conditions of bike routes, specifically Lake Washington Blvd South of Madison – the bike route from the arboretum connection down to Seward Park. This is well signed, heavily used. It doesn't live up to my expectations for a comfortable place to ride a bike primarily due to the pavement conditions. I have reported problems on the Find It Fix It app; some have been patched with pothole blacktop patches. I would like to request that SBAB consider communicating with Seattle Parks and Rec and SDOT to assess the road conditions, repaint the sharrows on the road, and add "bikes may use full lane" signs in areas.

### Presentations:

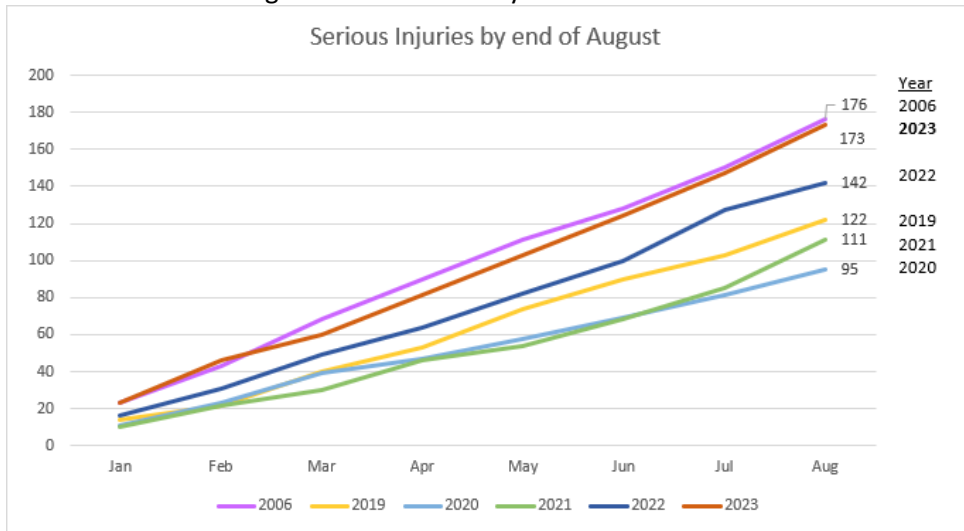
#### Vision Zero Update

This past month of September was somber with two people losing their life to traffic violence while walking. These deaths occurred on the same day and one person was potentially experiencing homelessness.

We are aware of 22 individuals who have lost their life in a traffic collision this year.



We are also aware of 173 serious injuries that have occurred this year. Serious injury collisions continue to be at the second highest ever in our 20 years of records.



**Discussion:**

- Amy: Can there be year over year context on the data points, for those who are new?
  - Donna: The images that were emailed include graphs with year over year data.
- Doug: Is there additional info associated with these data points?
  - Simon: There are police reports on the individual crashes, sometimes these have additional details, sometimes they do not have as many details as one would like to see.

The trend is that these collisions are happening on multilane, wide roads where people tend to drive fast.

- Pete: Is this something SDOT does internally too?
  - Simon: Yes, in monthly staff meetings each month we take time to share similar data and take a moment to pause and think about what has happened. The Vision Zero team shares more about the context during these meetings.

## Board Workplan

### Board Discussion:

- Donna: Through this board discussion time, we'd like to come away with a better sense of what people's time is like to take on projects, programs, outreach to partners, and outreach to City Council. The activities, we believe, will increase our impact as a board. We're hoping to get people to talk about what's important and name things to work on.
- Pete: We're hoping to do some brainstorming and then identify which of those items are a priority for the board. We have three areas on a visual board: projects, impact, partners.

### Discussion Item 1) How to have more impact:

- Pete: We'd like to think about what we can do as a board (either collectively or as individuals on the board) to have an impact on cycling in the city. There are letters, which we've produced a few of in the past year, but there are other options. We could consider more direct engagement with council members, engagement with Seattle Neighborhood Greenways, and more.
- Donna: We've written 3-4 letters in the past year, we need to back those up with personal communication – either with specific council members, or with the team that works with the mayor's office and have someone be involved in following up those letters with a personal meeting. I think it would have more impact.
- Nia: I live right near the I-90 bridge and have passion about the safety people biking and walking to cross the on ramps. With the new Judkins Park station, there's going to be a lot more foot traffic.
- Ty: It would be great to do group rides. I like the idea of us subdividing projects. I enjoy doing homework on the back end.
- Doug: How can we mitigate speeding? And how can we further issues like this? The maintenance issue – I think we can do better. It doesn't sound like we are responsive enough and accountable enough to bicycle concerns. We've discussed making things better with Find It Fix It and more. Mindset-wise, how can we be effective? What are the pragmatic things we can have an influence on? I think SDOT maybe operates well enough on big construction projects without SBAB. I wonder if other things would be a better use of our time.
  - Pete: When you say "we can do better" - would you be able to expand on what you mean?
  - Doug: I don't say these things to be critical. On the presentation end, I think we have the expert transportation staff members working on these things, I'm not sure all these projects need our input or that our thoughts are more important in the scheme of things.
- Amy Conroy: Question as a new person – what's the purpose of the presentations we get from SDOT staff?
  - Pete: There are multiple aspects to it, one is awareness, but we work with Simon to identify projects that are very early in the planning cycle with the aim to incorporate our

feedback, as each of us have unique knowledge and lived experiences about biking in Seattle that we can share with project leads. The presentations allow us to see where the design concepts are going and ask SDOT teams to consider certain specific factors when they are working on design.

- Donna: Our board is supposed to advise the mayor and the City Council on programs related to bicycling. So yes, that means we will get a lot of presentations on specific projects that are happening. I believe it is essential for us to consider if we want to be most involved in projects in our neighborhood, near where we work, where we bicycle – and adopt these projects, go to local meetings and interact with other community members. If we become more involved, we will be more effective when it comes time to attend these presentations and talk to a council member about our experiences with them.
- Amy: I agree with Donna that we need to be more engaged with certain projects. I think we have to remind ourselves that our time is limited, and it could be wise to focus on a couple projects per year. Can we focus on “impact projects”? Have each member dig into a project, report back to the board on what they find? It’s important for us to choose like 5 or 6 or a certain number of projects and focus on those, perhaps.
  - Regarding City Council – we’ve had a panel discussion forum and invited council members to our meeting. Especially if it’s a new election – we bring them in and ask them their thoughts about bicycle infrastructure.
- Joseph: It’s going to be hard for us to have an impact if we are not getting things done during meetings. I know we all have jobs and commitments, and we’re volunteers, but we have to find ways to do things between meetings.
  - I appreciate the time that people spend coming to give us presentations, I appreciate their dedication to the work they’re doing. I find the presentations frustrating because there isn’t enough time for Q&A. We need to establish an expectation from board members that we read presentations beforehand. Can we work with presenters beforehand to help them present what we are looking for, so they can focus on what we care about? Also, not sure we have the best follow up. Would like to see if we can have some continuing engagement.
  - City Council – the only interaction is that we occasionally copy them on letters. This is important because they decide the funding.
  - Regarding public comment – it would be great if we could take those and really do something with them.
- Eli: For folks that have been on the board for longer, what are different ways we have collaborated with other boards (like pedestrian board, other community groups) as we hear of projects that may also affect them? There are many identity-affiliated groups across the city. Maybe it’s some coalition-building. Collaborate with other people who have different identities and also strong voices – if we could engage with them, that would be helpful. We could have people who are focused on different things/topics (like infrastructure, equity, social media)

#### Discussion Item 2) Partnerships:

- Pete: What are the organizations we would like to partner with?
- Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board, Cascade Bicycle Club – are there others?
  - City Council Transportation Committee
  - Seattle Neighborhood Greenways
  - ABC = Ampersand Cycling Club
  - Northstar Cycling
  - Seattle Bike Blog

- BikeWorks and other local bike shops
- Levy Oversight Committee
- Amy: One idea is we could partner with Seattle Bike Blog or do a guest post or something.
  - Pete: Perhaps even the letters we write could be shared
- Donna: Alex Pedersen is not running again; he is currently the head of the Transportation Committee on City Council – we should definitely try to meet with the new person.
- Eli: Shane from the chat brought up a great point regarding schools. There was an article in South Seattle Emerald regarding Bike & Walk to School day (<https://southseattleemerald.com/2023/10/16/opinion-seattle-public-schools-and-city-government-must-support-safe-walk-bike-and-bus-routes-for-south-seattle/>) that shares some of those concerns.

### Discussion Item 3) Projects & Programs:

- Donna: I spoke with Simon and this year due to the levy ending, we might not receive as many project presentations. I asked Simon how we should play into the Levy that's coming up. In 2024, the Levy committee will be engaging with us and other modal boards. It is a good idea for all of us, individually, to make comments on this. You can even make more general comments like "I support projects that support bike lanes in x, y, z area" - that would have an impact in itself. I encourage everyone to make your comments.
  - Climate is another issue that people have said we need to address. There are many opportunities for us to hold the mayor and the council's feet to the fire in their commitment to climate change.
  - Vision Zero: It would be great if someone could take over Simons reading of the statistics each month. One of things Pete and I discussed was having more regular updates from the team on the statistics.
  - Others: Bike parking program, Find It Fix it, automatic enforcement cameras for speeding, scooters.
- Yasir: I want to see a larger focus on e-bikes, maybe advocate for charging stations, better parking facilities, and wider lanes? E-bikes are projected to be a larger portion of bikes in Seattle in the coming years.
- Doug: Would it be possible to have a presentation/interactive session with whoever in SDOT is looking at monitoring the growing presence of scooters and electric vehicles and how this impacts transportation – in terms of movement and safety?
  - Joseph: It's important to push for additional bike parking, since this is essential to whether or not people bike.
  - Amy: We can look online at what types of bike parking is required in development projects.
- Pete: I would like us to prioritize the Aurora Ave N/State Route 99 corridor project. SBAB can provide public support of this important project.
- Nia: I would like to focus on the development of Rainier Avenue, with the big dream of having a protected bike lane on that road.
- Eli: I agree with E-Bike related topics and the Aurora Ave N/State Route 99 corridor Project.
- Max: The project I'd like to submit is seeing how we, as a board, can take a more data driven approach to helping SDOT prioritize. There are so many sections of road that need bike safety improvements. How do we use available data to ensure that we can separate as many cyclists from traffic as soon as possible?

- Amy: Can we make the topic of 'urban development' a project in itself? Are there requirements for the amount of bike parking that has to be built? Do the buildings have amenities for people like me and others to bike to work and arrive at their workplace ready for the day? (locker rooms, etc).
  - Simon: Yes, there are bike parking requirements for new developments. I don't know the exact details, but happy to research or connect you with staff.

**Board Business:**

- Approval of October minutes
  - Max motion to approve
  - Amy seconds
- Future agenda items:
  - Alaskan Way Safety Project
  - Better Bike Lane Barriers

**Public Comments:**

- Bob Winship: On behalf of Seattle Bike Connections, we agree with your efforts to reach out and partner with organizations. We have found it very useful in the past to partner to amplify our efforts. My suggestion is that you consider another avenue to reach council members – that is reach out to their staff – they have more time available and can carry messages back to their council members and write papers for them to guide the council members. We've found them to be very effective.

**Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by SBAB Co-chair Donna.