

# Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 15, 2025  
**Time:** 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.  
**Location:** City Hall L280, Boards & Commissions Room  
**Recorders:** Quinn Kelly

## Bicycle Advisory Board Members Present

| Seat | Members                            | Present<br>✓ | Absent<br>X |
|------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1    | Ksenia Ershova                     | ✓            |             |
| 2    | Kathryn Ricchiuto                  | ✓            |             |
| 3    | Nia Ransom. Co-Chair               | ✓            |             |
| 4    | Madin Akpo-Esambe                  |              | X           |
| 5    | Taylor Hom                         | ✓            |             |
| 6    | Doug Midgen                        | ✓            |             |
| 7    | Donna McBain Evans, LOC Rep        | ✓            |             |
| 8    | Rafael Ronquillo, Secretary        | ✓            |             |
| 9    | Molly McNeely                      | ✓            |             |
| 10   | Max Baker                          | ✓            |             |
| 11   | Joseph Roberts, Co-Chair           | ✓            |             |
| 12   | Joshua Scheidt, Get Engaged Member |              | X           |

## Presentations

### Interim Director Emery Introduction

*Adiam Emery, Interim Director*

- Adiam Emery (AE): Thank you for your partnership and collaboration
  - o Bike network is important for us to provide access
  - o It's our responsibility to build and maintain facilities for users of all ages and abilities
  - o Important to complete bike network, especially on the south end
- Questions
  - o Ksenia: within safety, what are the sub-groups of priority
    - AE: continue focus on vulnerable users, LPIs, hardened PBLs, automated traffic enforcement, focus on speeds
      - Ongoing monitoring to make sure we're on track, what's the ROI
  - o Ksenia: is banning RTOR part of that plan?
    - AE: we're still piloting, need to socialize importance of safety over congestion

- Doug: SBAB wrote a letter about cameras in school zones and making them operational 24/7 starting August 1<sup>st</sup>; can we get this done?
  - AE: I agree, this is on our to-do list to evaluate; we have to continue exploring to understand the implications
    - There's a pushback from an equity perspective regarding financial burden on low-income people
    - Doug: we aren't all in agreement about the equity issues, but we believe the overriding focus should be to reduce serious injury and death; VZ has not worked out well so far
- Max: excited about curb hardening and Levy funding; concern about federal funding being rescinded; what's the backup plan if we don't get the federal funding?
  - AE: we're all still calibrating; there are outstanding grants that are questionable; the positive thing about this Levy is that there is less leveraging; new Levy not as heavily dependent on federal grants
- Katy: have heard from national partners that folks are re-thinking how they talk about priorities to make sure we get through the next four years
  - AE: yes, we're thinking about how to word things to make them palatable for this administration
- TJ: noted that AE has biking experience; what is your experience biking around Seattle
  - AE: broke some ribs 2 years ago so has been a little nervous about biking; when kids were in elementary school, she commuted only via bike; infrastructure was not as good back then; even now, biking is a bit hairy without infrastructure; now does weekend leisure rides, but pivoting more to transit/walking/biking for commuting
- TJ: new developments with E-Bike subsidies, RTO, high bikeshare; encourage you to use SBAB as a resource; we would love to take you on a ride
- Joseph: given that SDOT is subject to City Council, etc.; how do you think about reducing VMT as part of safety? (e.g. reducing parking, increasing parking costs); is there an opening for that kind of thinking in Seattle?
  - AE: we're a growing city with limited ROW; we don't have the capacity for more SOVs; lead with transit to address the constraints; we're all pedestrians; we have a necessity to reduce the number of SOVs; we need to make your bus ride the most attractive option; we also need to move goods and think about deliveries/curbspace management; 62% of our GHG come from transportation, it's not just about EVs
- Ksenia: how to we help bring people along?
  - AE: it's not going to happen overnight; we have an opportunity with Revive I-5 and FIFA to change behavior; each person's behavior change can come from different situations; free Orca cards
- Max: as a resident, how to provide small suggestions in a way that not's burdensome but also not going into the ether
  - Monica: we're adjusted Find It, Fix It; for longer-term spot improvements, just email staff

- Doug: Find It, Fix It not working so far
- Katy: what bike projects are you most excited about?
  - Adiam: GT-SP, Beacon, other south-end possibilities
- TJ: what's the situation with the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Salvation Army street closure?
  - Christiana: we have been working with them on a re-opening plan
  - TJ: could it be a bike/ped only street?
    - Christiana: I can ask, there are also plans for a future ST station
  - TJ: Airport Way is extremely dangerous
- Molly: how can we be a good partner
  - AE: invite us to be a part of what you're doing
- Ksenia: where are bikes on the prioritization?
  - AE: third; transit, walking, biking; freight is also super important—they restrictions for where they can go; what we cannot afford is having more people driving SOVs

## Updates from SBAB Priority Sub-Committees

### Levy Projects

*Katy, Donna, & Molly*

#### Key Issues

- Working to understand what is coming down the line in 2025 and overlap with SBAB priorities

#### Opportunities:

- Sub-committee researches projects in planning and design stages
- Sub-committee equips board with project info so they are prepared to provide feedback
  - Opportunity to collaborate with other subcommittees
- Go on rides to better understand project areas

#### Upcoming projects:

- N 130<sup>th</sup> St
- Roosevelt Way NE
- E Marginal Way S
- Highland Park Way SW

#### Challenges:

- When to engage SDOT
  - Timing for maximum impact
- Unplanned changes
- Sustained capacity

Ksenia: what is the goal of this sub-committee

- Katy: to be prepared to provide strong feedback
  - Align on core questions and issues
  - Follow-up as needed

Joseph: we should share things via SBAB Google Drive

Max: we can also reach out to other organizations that are involved to get their perspectives

Joseph: Seattle Neighborhood Greenways is another good collaborator

Katy: next step is to develop a process

Joseph: when we know a presentation is coming up, it would be good for SBAB to provide key concerns in advance

### **Downtown to Georgetown to South Park**

*TJ, Joseph, & Max*

#### *6<sup>th</sup> Ave Closure*

TJ: 6<sup>th</sup> Ave is an opportunity to provide bike/ped only access

- Company that owns these buildings plans to do retail and housing
- Alternatives to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave are not good
  - o Lots of trucks on Airport Way
- Want to continue providing space for unhoused folks and people dealing with addiction

#### *Lack of Safe Route through Georgetown*

Joseph: There is a gap through Georgetown

- DT to GT ends at Lucille
- GT to SP picks up at Bailey/Ellis
- How are bikes supposed to get through? Airport Way?

#### *South Park Gap*

Max: There is also a gap in South Park between GT to SP and Green River Trail

- Green River Trail will dump people out onto 14<sup>th</sup> Ave

TJ: we can point to need to make south end connections

Next steps:

- Sub-committee to ask some questions
- Do a group ride on the new bike routes, including the gaps
  - o Joseph: yes, these are like Cascade's "policy rides"

## **Board Business**

### **Future Topics**

- Katy: how is SDOT incorporating new guidance from AASHTO and NACTO
  - o Christiana: New intersection design guidance
  - o Could be worth a future presentation, featuring an SDOT engineer
    - What is new and how will it impact our work
- Ksenia: guidance/relationship with European cities that have had success?
  - o Christiana: European planners/engineers have been involved in the development of the guidance that we use

### **Approval of minutes from February and March**

- Katy motions, Ksenia seconds
- Unanimously approved

### **Announcements**

- May is bike everywhere month

### **Meeting Adjournment**