

August 19, 2025 Meeting - Seattle Freight Advisory Board

Topics covered included: Seattle Transportation Plan (STP) Draft 3-Year Implementation Plan

This meeting was held: August 19, 3:30-4:15 p.m., via MS Teams and in City Hall Conference Room 370

Board Members: Stanley Ryter, Nigel Barron, Marc Hoecker, Geri Poor, Dan McKisson

Public: Tyler Blackwell, Ryan Packer, Justin Peng

Staff: Christopher Eaves, Baker Council, Cass Magnuski

Attending: 11

Christopher Eaves: The document that we hoped to have out is not out. We will have a few days, when it comes out, to turn around, pending comments or thoughts to be made. Right now, we have three members on. We will need a couple more to hit quorum. I do know that Dan Kelly, Dan Gatchet, and Nicole Calais cannot make it. So we hope to have another couple on, otherwise there would be a question as to whether or not we could do anything to have an official meeting to have an action to write a letter or make any comments. It is not necessary that we make comments. Just letting you know.

From chat: Geri Poor: Later in the meeting, could we take a look at the 2025 work plan? Do you know when we last touched it?

Christopher Eaves: I can send that out. We have ten total board members right now. We now have a quorum. I think we will start our official welcomes and such. I will have a couple of announcements anyway. This may be a shorter and more compact meeting than normal. I'm going to get started. Stanley Ryter, can I ask you to help us with opening?

Stanley Ryter: All right, we are ready to get going. This is the Seattle Freight Advisory Board meeting for August 19, 2025. We should do introductions real quick.

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ACTION ITEMS:

Meeting opening

Discussion – Seattle
Transportation Plan (STP)
Draft 3-Year Implementation
Plan

Chris Eaves:
Document is not out

INTRODUCTIONS

Christopher Eaves: Part of the reason Baker Council is here is that he is going to be taking up the reigns for the freight board. And, of course, this is the most unusual meeting we have had. Back to Stan Ryter.

Stanley Ryter: And to folks online. Do we have announcements for public comment?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHAIR REPORT

Christopher Eaves: We would approve the minutes, but I do not have them with me. Next is the announcements and chair's report.

Stanley Ryter: I don't know that I have any announcements. Dan Kelly was chair, and has run out of his eligibility.

Christopher Eaves: He has, and jumping on with that, I would like to make an announcement or two. Aside from the fact that we will do transitioning of board liaisons, there are two new members who will be coming on. My understanding is that interviews have been had, and emails have been sent. I just received the approval recommendations, but no emails have been sent out, and I would want to get those emails out before I make any announcement of names.

Stanley Ryter: Okay. Exciting.

Dan McKisson: I still have. Are these seats we have open or have some people left?

Christopher Eaves: Seats we have open. Technically, we have three seats, two seats were for interview, and one is a Council appointment, I believe. I don't have that information.

Dan McKisson: And Dan Kelly stepped down?

Christopher Eaves: He is stepping down, yes.

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Geri Poor
Can we review the 2025
work plan
CE Note: Plan distributed via
email after meeting

Introductions

Chris Eaves
June Minutes not available

Noting Dan Kelly (Chair) is
unavailable and his term has
run out

Stanley Ryter: Any other announcements? Shall we go to public comment? Geri Poor?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Geri Poor: I thought I would share, since I am the freight board's representative to the Oversight Committee. I will just take a minute to share that the Oversight Committee has reconstituted itself, its activity, and that there have been initiation meetings. There were several meetings to get new members of the Levy Oversight Committee grounded in the language and the protocols of the Levy Oversight Committee. There hasn't been any action yet, but the last time we talked about this, I said that I would be happy to serve for about six months, but I hoped that someone would want to step into this role. I will try to give you updates going forward in the course of our discussions about that.

Stanley Ryter: Than you, Geri.

Baker Council: Just or your information, the road development at **Pinehurst Way Northeast safety project has some information from their outreach coordinator. They are repaving this stretch of roads from NE 92nd Street to 15 Avenue NE. The pavement effort will include some ADA-compliant drainage roadway facility improvements, a redesign of intersection, bus stop shelters, but with freight, they just wanted me to share with you all. It's a minor freight route, so the freight benefits would include pavement quality, create a separation from the freight, people bicycling or walking, and there will be some impacts to the loading zones, however, they will be working with the businesses after the construction to mitigate any of those issues. They wanted me to share that with you. I'm going to share the link to the project web site just for your information, if you have any questions or comments about that. Also, it is at 30 percent design at this point for this particular project.**

Dan McKisson: I have a question about that. Are they reducing lanes to do the grades and the separation for the bikes, or is it that they are adding that extra on it?

Christopher Eaves: I will note that I looked at that. They are keeping eleven foot lanes for freight movement.

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Interviews for new members have been conducted. Two appointees recommended and a potential council appointee is in the offing

Geri Poor –
Oversight Committee has reformed

Willing to serve 6 more months but hope someone will take the SFAB representation

Baker Council-
Email out regarding Pinehurst Way Northeast Safety Project
Wanted to share information
CE Note Text bolded for emphasis

Dan McKisson: Very good. Thanks for looking at that. Can I bring up a couple of other things? The tour of the East Marginal heavy haul corridor on the 27th, I believe, is there going to be a ribbon-cutting session at another point? And is it going to be completely open after this tour?

Christopher Eaves: Tour, then ribbon-cutting. I believe there is still more work to do.

Dan McKisson: Okay. My local put in a C40 for the WOSCA property, and we have not heard anything back yet. We have been told that because we submitted something, we are going to get a response at some point in the near future, but it has been quite some time. So, we're still waiting to hear what that looks like. And then, recently, we had a good meeting with the OPCD on our Resolution 32097, and they have assigned it to Jim Holmes, and he is waiting for the two year mark of implementation to start the two-year portion of the study, and then after that, it is every four years, I believe. Moving on that. That was good news to hear. I think Mr. Holmes will do a great job.

Stanley Ryter: Okay, great. Thanks, Dan. Has anybody else signed up for public comment? Then we should get to our agenda item, which is the Seattle Transportation Plan.

SEATTLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN 3-Year Implementation Plan

Christopher Eaves: Yes, we should. I'm going to hop in with a few points. The document has not been sent out for the publication/review. There had been a chance of this occurring, and it has. Recognizing that we have nothing in front of us, I sent a couple of emails, one suggesting remote attendance, which would at least help save time for others. Because we need to have an action from the board to perform any letter-writing or other, most of the meeting we should have here would likely be about describing a subcommittee, perhaps, to write a letter talking about some of the goals, perhaps, of the freight board, and preparing ahead of time what we would like to see. And then having perhaps a look at what the implementation plan is looking at and doing. I am at a loss as to what to do at this moment, and am willing hear any thoughts, because I don't know what to do, because this was our one agenda item, hoping to get something to put on this.

Stanley Ryter: When that does come out, the Seattle Transportation Plan, how long do you think the review period will be?

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Dan McKisson
Is there lane reduction or other

Chris Eaves
Lanes maintained at 11 feet

Dan McKisson
WOSCA design via C-40 is ongoing but request for info has not resulted in anything

Had a recent good meeting with Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) regarding Resolution 32097 (study regarding industrial lands)

Christopher Eaves: My understanding is that it is about a week and a half.

Stanley Ryter: A week and a half. So, really the thing to do is to identify a few people who would read it and comment, and send comments out to the whole group for discussion, or say, what do you think of this? That's one idea of how to handle it. It's a fairly large document, as I recall.

Christopher Eaves: I've been told that it is less than 100 pages at this point.

Stanley Ryter: Okay, that's digestible. Does anyone have thoughts on how we should handle this? Do we have some volunteers who would read it when it comes out and look through some of our key items to see how things like maintenance, modernization, and all of that, affects mobility and economic vitality. Safety is a big one. And just overall investments as a proportion of the whole plan. What is the emphasis? Is it on walking and biking? Is it all access to schools. Does freight have a fairly central role in the whole thing? I'm certainly willing to read it when it comes out and look through our notes, when we looked at the STP key moves, and we talked about that a few meetings ago. Is anyone else interested in taking a look and commenting?

Geri Poor: I am happy to participate also.

Stanley Ryter: Okay, Geri. We probably should have at least one more.

Nigel Barron: When do we think that the document is coming out?

Christopher Eaves: I am hopeful that it is out within the next two days.

Nigel Barron: Yes, Stan, I will give it a read. I'll have some time next week. That's good plane food.

Stanley Ryter: That's good airplane reading. Okay, so let's say that it comes out at the end of the week, and really by Wednesday we ought to have read it. And then gather the comments by email by Friday, August 29. It's interesting that such a major document being released right before Labor Day, and to expect comments with Labor Day, Husky Football and all of that. It makes you wonder what they're hiding. It's funny to people who are doing this for a living, when Congress does bills and stuff, people go

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Seattle Transportation Plan
3-Year Implementation Plan

Suggestion is to develop a
sub-committee to review
and draft a letter ahead of
the September 16th meeting

Review time will be short –
possibly a week and a half.

CE Note – summary of
discussion:
Subcommittee Formed and
voted on:

Stan Ryter
Geri Poor
Marc Hoecker

Will review and draft a letter

all night reading this stuff just to make sure they can uncover what they need to uncover. I don't think this is a huge secret here, what they've done. We've had some disability of process. This proposal, Nigel Barron, Geri Poor, and I will take a look and get some thoughts together. And then, we would probably need the authority of the group to write a little comment letter back. And then, we could certainly send it all out to the whole group for quick comment. But it seems like the turn-around time is pretty tight.

Marc Hoecker: Chris, when is our next meeting?

Christopher Eaves: The next meeting is September 16. That is very likely past any public comment period for this.

Dan McKisson: You are looking for a motion to have the committee review the document and make a draft letter, and send it to the rest of the board for a quick turn-around comment? I would feel more comfortable if we had a chance to look at it.

Stanley Ryter: Yes, definitely we would send it around to the board for quick turn-around.

Dan McKisson: Okay. So I would make that motion.

Stanley Ryter: The motion is to have a committee of Nigel Barron, Geri Poor, and Stanley Ryter read the document, make comments, write a quick letter, send it around to the board, and then send it to STP management. Does anybody second that motion?

Nigel Barron: Second.

Stanley Ryter: All in favor, say 'aye.' Anyone opposed? None opposed. So maybe that's the action plan going forward. I think it is worth having a look. It's kind of odd having something this big here in the last two weeks of August. That would be my number one comment.

Christopher Eaves: So, I've got a good pass for the committee. Geri Poor, Nigel Barron, Stanley Ryter. Previously, we had a list that was noted of things that might be good topics. So that seems to answer the potential for a response as we need it. If I

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may note, Geri Poor earlier had mentioned also including the 2025 work plan for the freight board, so I will find that document and send it out, as well. There will be mention of material that had gone out previously, so you all have that.

Stanley Ryter: Yes, that would be great.

Christopher Eaves: I do not have any other items on deck at this moment. We can go to closing public comment. I truly have nothing else to offer at this point.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan McKisson: We don't really have any new business, but I would just like to ask if SDOT is planning another multi-modal board meeting in the future. I found that meeting very interesting. I think I learned a lot about how other boards are looking at things and projects. I'm not sure that other board members feel that that would be useful, but I think it would be useful.

Christopher Eaves: I can provide an answer. There is an attempt to have other multi-modal board meetings. I also am aware that other boards have begun reaching out to one another. So that avenue is available also, should there be interest.

Ryan Packer: Transit board just had a joint meeting regarding Aurora Avenue,

Christopher Eaves: So, the answer is yes. There is intent to have a larger multi-modal board meeting. And boards are also not prohibited from making their own. So, if there are pieces of information that the freight board would want, that is something that the liaisons can help organize.

Marc Hoecker: I had a conversation with a member of the transit board, and we both thought it was a good idea, over the course of the year, for each board to host one of the other boards. Since we don't have everybody in the room at the same time, for example, freight would host transit. And then, transit would host pedestrians, and so forth. And you sort of have a rotating schedule, where one hosts the other, almost like you would in a kids' soccer game. It doesn't have to be every month, and certainly not every meeting. But you would have some sort of periodic call at least once a year, maybe twice, depending on what people think makes sense. It makes sense to me. I was a little skeptical of some of the introductory games we played at that meeting. I

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Closing Public Comment

Dan McKisson
Asking if a multi-board meeting will occur in the future – found the awareness of opinions useful.

Ryan Packer:
Transit Board just had a joint meeting regarding Aurora Ave

think we should have more substantive stuff that we talked about early on. But, overall, I think it should help bridge those gaps, and identify where we can work together.

Christopher Eaves: I'll comment on that. We, meaning the board, and we liaisons can reach out to each other and make that ask. And if there is any specific board that strikes this board's interest for discussion, or topic, this would be a great time to start making those asks. I don't mean to put anybody on the spot, just that we are thinking about it right now.

Dan McKisson: I think what I would like to see is to proactively look to other boards for letters that they are writing, have recommendations, things like that. Those could be supplied to the board when those documents are submitted for recommendation so we can get an idea of what they are thinking. They are submitting letters and just knowing the volume of what they are doing would help me to understand what they are doing, also, and what we can work together on.

Christopher Eaves: That leads me to distributing their agendas at this moment, to see what is interesting them.

Dan McKisson: That's a recommendation, but the board can weigh in on that. That's more emails for you to look at.

Christopher Eaves: Well, since it will be Baker Council doing the work, I'm fine with it.

Baker Council: Also, you just want to see what topics are being discussed, so agenda items would be a good idea.

Dan McKisson: Yes. We had someone sit in on the pedestrian board one time, and they got a presentation from a company that wanted to put kiosks around the City in walkable areas. So, you show up at the kiosks and they will tell you to go here or there. But even at the pedestrian board, I found, had issues. You know, this is third party, so maybe I'm wrong with my statement. But they had issues with them being in the SODO area as a walkable space. There are a lot of issues with traffic and freight. I thought it was interesting and something we can work together on, if we had thought about it. This was about a year, year and a half ago. So, there was planning for the upcoming soccer games.

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Marc Hoecker

Proposal over the course of a year have each board host the other boards to keep cross discussion going.

Chris Eaves

Board liaisons can make those asks and help arrange that.

Dan McKisson

Would like to understand what letters other boards are writing and understand the volume they are doing. Would help understand how we can work together.

Christopher Eaves: I'm just going to note, and I saw Geri Poor's hand up, but I think that's a really good example of cross-pollination.

Geri Poor: As we were talking about cross-pollination, I would point out that I spoke up at the beginning of the meeting about the Levy Oversight Committee. And this is one place where the boards do come together. The members of the oversight committee include representatives appointed by the Mayor and the Council, and then one member from each of the boards. So, as your rep, the freight board's rep there, I had a chance to chat with a representative from the bike board, and the pedestrian board, and the transit board, and report out what our items are, and that's what they do generally, also. So, I can also bring that back if I hear interesting things at that once a month meeting.

Stanley Ryter: That sounds good, Geri, too. Aurora Avenue is something that we are going to have to weigh in on at some point. It looks like we had a missed opportunity there. Any other announcements or topics from board members?

Marc Hoecker: I have two. One, did we hear anything on the letter that we sent to the Mayor? So the answer is no. Second thing is if there is any way -- and I'm actually the project manager for the study -- I think leading a study with WSP as the consultant, not just study the AHS interval connector system. An interval connector is actually part of the NHS highway network, leftover segments that you actually think of as part of the NHS system. As part of what we are undertaking, the examination of several case studies, Seattle is one of the case studies, specifically to serve an area. So, what I want to ask for: one, FHWA will be reaching out to SDOT. They will also be reaching out WSDOT for this study/ But I thought it would be a good exercise over email, send the map around and just get peoples' comments from this group of experts on what they see as gaps, and things that are missing in the network. And I have looked at it. I have my opinions, but I don't want those to be drawn in this study. I would like it to be receptive and open to what other people have, those other influences. So, I will reserve my thoughts on it, but what I was going to suggest is I could send it around to everybody, and just invite you to comment on it over email. And then, maybe at the next meeting, it would be helpful if we could just carve out just a few minutes of the agenda to just talk about it and gather feedback.

Stanley Ryter: That sounds reasonable.

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Baker Council

Would help to see what topics are being discussed so agenda items would be helpful.

Geri Poor –

Levy Oversight Committee is one place where boards come together. Other boards report out their items so this can also help.

Stan Ryter

Aurora Avenue is something SFAB will need to weigh in on

Marc Hoecker: Unfortunately, at the next meeting, I am going to be traveling. so I may not be able to be at the meeting, but I don't think that should prevent everybody from talking about it. Just the feedback, let it be in the minutes, and we can take that up.

Stanley Ryter: Okay, sounds good. Any other comments from board members before we go to public comment?

Dan McKisson: If we could get an update on the Holgate study, if there is one at the next meeting, if possible. Unless you have an update now.

SEPTEMBER AGENDA

Christopher Eaves: Actually, I was planning on putting it on the agenda. We are planning to have a Holgate update. I wish I could formally plan it, to make sure you are happy, but it just worked out. And we are carving some time for the NHS comments and thoughts, as well as Holgate. And those are what I have at this point in time.

Dan McKisson: Perfect.

Stanley Ryter: Okay, sounds good. We will see what comes up between now and then, if that STP does come out. Any public comment?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stanley Ryter: Doesn't sound like we have any public comment. Anything else for today from anybody? Motion to adjourn?

Nigel Barron: So moved.

Dan McKisson: Second.

Stanley Ryter: Okay, thanks, everybody. We will be on the lookout for that STP plan. That's really the next hot item. And then, we will go from there. Chris, you're still with us next month, or...?

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Marc Hoecker
Anything from Letter to Mayor?

Noting a study for the National Highway System – FHWA will be reaching out to SDOT and would like professional views of the SFAB

Dan McKisson
Holgate Study update would be helpful
CE Note: This is a September topic

Christopher Eaves: Yes.

Stanley Ryter: Okay, thanks, everybody. Meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT 4:10

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Adjournment