

**Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee**  
**Meeting held at City Hall, 600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Room 370**  
**And Online**  
**April 21, 2023**

**SSTSC Members** (X = present)

- X Lee Bruch (community volunteer)
- X Mary Ellen Russell, (parent volunteer)
- X Margaret McCauley (pedestrian safety advocate and secretary)
- X Marilyn Firman (citizen-at-large)
- X Robin Schwartz (parent volunteer)
- X Robbie Frankel (Metro Representative)
- X Noa Guter (Chair, parent volunteer)
- Gary Davenport (SPD Liaison)
- X Yvonne Carpenter (SPS field staff supervisor)
- X Diane Walsh (SDOT Representative)
- X Sara Colling (SPS Representative)

**Other attendees**

- Steven Richard (SPS)
- Marni Campbell (SPS Executive Director of Operations)
- Radcliffe Dacanay (SDOT Policy and Planning Group)
- Matt Campbell (SDOT Intern)
- Ryan Packer (The Urbanist)

**SDOT Seattle Transportation Update:** Radcliffe Dacanay

Seattle Transportation Plan is entering Phase 3, the review phase of the planning process. Based on public comments, respondents' priority is a rapid progress to multi-modal transportation. Half the citizens trips are 3 miles or less. More pedestrian space, safer biking, people friendly streets and improved transit can all be combined to create the desired transportation use in the future. We have an expanding population but limited right of way so transit using fewer cars is a priority.

An executive order in December 2022 ordered expansion of School Streets. A new Safe Routes to Transit program, a program similar to Safe Routes to School, is in the works. The new draft plan is expected to be released by June 30<sup>th</sup>. A collective letter from the committee was requested to STP team probably in July or early August with any suggestions or comments. Addresses are: [STP@seattle.gov](mailto:STP@seattle.gov) and [engage.oneseatleplan.com](http://engage.oneseatleplan.com).

**Last Month Minutes and Action update items:**

1. A walking tour is scheduled for Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 AM to 12:00 AM. We will tour Concord and John Stanford Elementary Schools. This will allow 45 minutes each with a half hour travel in between. Lee suggested that we carpool to demonstrate commitment to less energy use. **Action: Mary Ellen** will invite school board members. **Action: Noa** will invite Dr. Hem Morizaria Luna. **Action: Diane** will provide final schedule later. Robyn is a member of Concord PTA and can serve as contact person there also.

2. Steven will take over for Paula on the Walk Boundary Update Project. Matt Campbell, SDOT intern, said it takes 20 to 30 minutes to assess each intersection. Mary Ellen asked that **Action: Matt** try to refine the rubric so it could be done more quickly. Last time the walk boundaries were assessed it took three years doing about 3 schools each meeting.
3. While serving on the committee, Richard scheduled capital projects review when the planning was about 30% underway so our input would be used. **Action: Marni** is on the capital team and will make sure it's on their radar.

Margaret moved and Lee seconded to have the minutes approved. They were approved unanimously.

**SIP Meeting Update:** The meeting had again been delayed.

**Right Turn on Red Letter:** After further discussion it was decided not to send a letter and to save our political capital to issues, we are in complete agreement and more passionate about.

**Retreat Scheduling/Recruiting:**

**Action: Mary Ellen** will chair the retreat committee with **Margaret** assisting. The goal for the retreat is to know each other better and to discuss possible long-term goals. The tentative date is Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June so Yvonne can come. If this doesn't work, then it will be scheduled after our Friday June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. A suggested solution is an outside picnic lunch at a park near downtown or an outside restaurant. There are no funds available.

**SPS Update:** Sara Colling

Sara is taking Ashley Rhead's place at SDOT. It will be a one-year position. Sara hopes that the hiring process will begin right away.

Sara has a busy 'Walk to school' scheduled on May 3rd. Roxhill, and Del Ridge in West Seattle will have 3 walking routes to school. One is over one mile.

Bike Fest is taking place at South Shore, Dunlap, And Rainier Beach. Students were given free bikes. Biking will be every Wednesday morning in May.

Mary Ellen shared that the PTA at Greenlake has bike bus routes in May. They will start far out and collect riders the whole way to school. Adams Elementary is working on a bike day also. Sara said that so far, she knows of 12 schools working on a bike day and there was an overwhelming response requesting the free material for bike day.

**Crossing Guard Update:** Yvonne Carpenter

Salmon Bay K-8 has two applicants in process. A member notified Yvonne that a student from another school had experienced a hit and run at 2:30 PM at 65<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> near Salmon Bay School.

Kimball has one staff in process as does Hawthorne. John Muir has staff at McClellan and 33<sup>rd</sup> and at Rainier and Walden.

There was a woman seen acting as a crossing guard at 24<sup>th</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> which is not normally staffed and who was not hired by Yvonne. Normally 25<sup>th</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> is staffed by a crossing guard but he has been sick.

**Questions by Members:**

1. Mary Ellen has been asked if we would cosponsor a **candidate debate venue**. The Committee is not sure if as a city committee that this is something we are allowed to do. **Action: Diane** will check if this is legal. **Action: Mary Ellen** will then get a list of who else is cosponsoring, Margaret is concerned about negative feedback because this may be seen as political.
2. **School Paddle Ticket Law Enforcement** Marni met with the City Attorney's Office. King County Prosecutor, who had done this previously, refused to continue enforcement because of courtroom time. Marni hopes that SPD Attorney will have the staff resources to dedicate to it.
3. **Speed Zone Cameras** The vendor that does school paddle tickets also operates the speed zone cameras. We really need the data and have not been getting it. Marni says that coordinating with the School Paddle Ticket process may solve both problems.

### **Flashing Beacons for Summer School:**

Accolades to Marni. She has gotten the summer schedule now in time to give SDOT a heads up and get flashing beacons. Hooray! The Summer Schools will be Broadview-Thompson, Olympic Hills, Madrona, Martin Luther King Jr., Concord International and Maple Schools. **Action: Diane** will follow up with SDOT to coordinate the flashing beacons.

### **Updates by Members:**

1. **Crossing Guard Recruitment:** Most people learn about the positions by word of mouth. We need to get flyers out and up as soon as we can even before the Annual August Recruitment.
2. **Metro Update:** Robbie reported that Sara was very helpful. Robbie and Sara held an eighth graders bus training at Mercer Middle School. Mercer school is moving next year and will need different bus service for the new school. It is important to have a long lead time to change the fall schedule. With this early knowledge of the change Metro will add another morning and after school bus in the fall for route 107. Also, they will add a larger bus for Route 36(?) in the fall.
3. **Recruitment:** Both Lee and Robyn are retiring with the end of their term this month. We need to aggressively recruit new members. **Action: Robyn** said she would look in West Seattle to see if she can find someone to replace her. **Action: Lee** also said he would inquire in his civic groups if someone would and could replace him. **Action: Diane and Noa** will need to recruit also. Both Lee and Robyn have offered to stay for a short time until someone is recruited to fill their positions.

### **Future Topics:**

- Plan June Retreat
- Annual Report
- Prepare for recruiting crossing guards.
- Land Use Planning Report?
- July – review Transportation plan and send suggestions.

Next Meeting: May 19,2023

Primarily Online but Diane will be at City Hall if anyone wants to come in person.