

**Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee  
Meeting held In-Person and Online  
October 20, 2023**

**SSTSC Members** (X = present)

- X Mary Ellen Russell, (volunteer)
- X Margaret McCauley (volunteer)
- X Marilyn Firman (volunteer)  
Robbie Frankel (Metro King County representative)
- X Noa Guter (Chair, volunteer)  
Gary Davenport (SPD representative)
- X Yvonne Carpenter (SPS representative)
- X Diane Walsh (SDOT Representative)
- X Brooke Nelson (SPS representative)
- X Ryan Baum (volunteer)
- X Kelsey Rote (volunteer)

**Other attendees**

- Marni Campbell (SPS Executive Director of Operations)
- Ryan Packer (The Urbanist reporter)
- Fred Young (Intern SDOT)
- Sara Colling (SDOT)
- Robin Schwartz (Community member)
- Steven Richard (SPS Director of Transportation)
- Ben Scott (Community member)

**Public Comment:** none

**Welcoming New Members:**

Kelsey Rote who works at the Washington State Department of Financial Management.

**SDOT UPDATE:** Diane Walsh SDOT member, Fred Young, SDOT Intern

Fred presented the Travel Tally update which was taken at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. 54 out of 70 elementary schools participated, including many schools that did not participate in the past. There has been a large increase in active transportation in the 8 years since the 2015 study. Active transportation has doubled.

[https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/SDOT/SRTS/2023\\_Tally/SRTS\\_ExecutiveSummary\\_In\\_fographic\\_2023.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/SDOT/SRTS/2023_Tally/SRTS_ExecutiveSummary_In_fographic_2023.pdf)

The elementary schools participating were clustered based on their high school catchment area. Ballard HS catchment area increased active transportation by 46%, with Ingraham, Nathan Hale, Roosevelt, and Rainier Beach also showing strong improvement. One observation is that increase is correlated with higher equity scores. Fred said there are many possible reasons: varying ability to purchase bikes and rolling equipment; fewer sidewalks and bike lanes; neighborhood safety; fewer active parent organizations; etc.

## **Roxhill and Kimball Elementary Walk Zone Review Requests**

Robin Schwartz brought questions from these schools.

### Kimball Elementary:

1. What is SDOT timeline for the Pedestrian Safety Improvements at the intersection of 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S and S. Hinds Ave.? Sara said this project is about to begin.
2. Would a 3-way stop at S. Spokane Street be possible? **Action: Diane** will follow up with research at SDOT.

### Roxhill Elementary:

1. The corner of 35<sup>th</sup> and Holden is at the bottom of a very steep hill and very close to the boundary of the walking range. There is a large apartment building there with many students. Steven Richard suggested a walking school bus, **Action: Brooke** will try to set this going and get back to Robin. **Action: Diane** will research the possibility of a 4-way stop with SDOT.

**Seattle Transportation Plan Update:** Radcliffe Dacanay

[Seattle Transportation Plan – Online Engagement Hub \(infocommunity.org\)](http://infocommunity.org)

- The plan's emphasis is on intertwining SDOT's plans with both WSDOT and METRO. The goals are safety, equity, and sustainability. The plan will inform the funding process.
- Currently they are acquiring an analytic tool to measure VHM Vehicle Mileage Travel. This metric should greatly help in cooperation with WSDOT and METRO.
- Safe Routes to School will be intertwined with Safe Routes to Transit and to Parks.
- Curb Space: Mary Ellen asked about the danger to children of the increasingly tall vehicles parking on curbs. Radcliffe suggested we could note our concerns in our letter.
- There will be a youth summit in December to get Young People's wants and find out with what they are willing to comply.
- I-5 and I-90 There is almost no way for walking, biking, or transit to conveniently cross the freeways in most places. For example, there is no pedestrian or bicycle crossing at 85<sup>th</sup>. A student (a child of one of our committee members) must take three buses to get to their 'neighborhood' school.
- Sodo is a particular 'hot spot' for this problem.

Response: **Action: Mary Ellen** will write a letter to SDOT: Radcliffe Dacanay with our recommendations/requests.

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

1. **Action: Scoring Rubric Committee:** Sara, Mary Ellen, Brooke, Diane, Yvonne, Steven Richard, Noa, and Ryan will be on the scoring sub-committee. Once the current scoring is completed it will meet quarterly to keep scores updated.  
Steven Richard said a hot spot is the intersection of Rainier Ave. and 56<sup>th</sup> S. just north of Emerson school. There is a housing development across the school and many children must

cross. Yvonne has not been able to keep/get a crossing guard because the guards find it too dangerous. Children are currently bused without recompense from the state.

2. **Action: Marni** will check that the Annual report will be presented before the school board, either the whole board or a committee. There are lots of very urgent budget issues getting in our way.
3. Update from Marni about the progress of legislation to get Speed Zone and Stop Paddle citations given by clerical personnel instead of police. She said the progress was slow. Margaret talked about contacting Senator Joe Nguyen and Representative Joe Fitzgibbon. **Action: Noa and Brooke** will follow up on it.

Margaret moved, and Mary Ellen seconded to have the minutes approved as corrected below.

1. Ryan Baum is a parent of a first grader, not a first grader.
2. Diane would be looking into how to streamline the crossing guard rubric, not Mary Ellen.

**SPS Update:** Brooke Nelson

20 schools participated in Walk to School Month. That is up from 11 last year, almost a 100% increase. In 2015 there were 28, the only year with a higher number of schools participating. 7 of the schools were on the priority school list.

**Crossing Guard Update:** Yvonne Carpenter

Yvonne has 6 new crossing guards filling 7 open posts and 4 new applicants scheduled. There were no losses.

There was a discussion about the map Mary Ellen has maintained of the filled/vacant crossing guard locations. Steven Richard wanted SPS to do it. A decision was to continue what is working now. **Action: Mary Ellen will continue and will send** a copy of map updates to Steven, Yvonne, and Brooke who need to know.

**Future Topics:**

- Annual Report Presentation Policy (top of agenda)
- Land Use Planning Report?
- August: Stop Paddle Report

Next Meeting: November 17<sup>th</sup> Online