

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 1, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Co-Chairs: Emily Paine and Patrick Taylor
Recorder: Simon Blenski

Minutes Distribution List:

See Attachment A

Members Present:

	Present ✓	Absent ✗
Pierre Brunelle	✓	
Gunner Colleen, Get Engaged Member	✓	
Andrew Dannenberg	✓	
Benjamin Estes	✓	
Kashina Groves	✓	
Meredith Hall	✓	
Connor Inslee		✗
Andrea Lai, Secretary	✓	
Alexander Lew		✗
Emily Paine, Co-Chair	✓	
Patrick Taylor, Co-Chair	✓	
Sarah Udelhofen	✓	

Guests:

- Brian Slick, Magnolia
- Brian Townley, Fremont
- Laura Goodfellow, Roosevelt
- Andrew Koved, Queen Anne
- Dongho Chang, SDOT
- Chris Svolopoulos, SDOT
- Serena Lehman, SDOT

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

- Co-Chair Emily Paine called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

- See above

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

PRESENTATIONS

Bike and Pedestrian Safety Analysis Phase 2

Presenters: Chris Svoloopoulos, SDOT

Presentation: See attached

Time: 6:08pm

Discussion and Q&A:

- Sarah: In addition to looking at collisions, did the analysis try to understand what facilities are most comfortable to people?
 - Chris: This analysis did not, but a few years ago SDOT developed a Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress tool ([link](#)).
- Gunnar: Did the analysis include data by race or age?
 - Chris: Race and age was included in the exposure model as a demographic factor. For actual collision data, age and gender is typically included in reports received from the Seattle Police Department (SPD), but race is not. The national Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) does report race, so we are starting to look at that and comparing with SPD data.
 - Gunnar: It would be great to keep looking into that.
- Ben: This may not be on topic, but at the start of the presentation you mentioned that the city is growing, but we cannot easily expand our streets to add more cars. Has the City ever looked at congestion pricing?
 - Dongho: Per direction from the Mayor's office, congestion pricing is being studied by an interdepartmental team.
- Andy: Do we have collision data for trails?
 - Dongho: We get information from the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) regarding incidents that SPD would not typically respond to. These include incidents like falls. Using this data, we found that there were locations along the Burke Gilman where there with a lot of falls and we have worked to address that.
 - Chris: We often get asked why we focus so much on SPD data. SDOT uses it because it is the only consistent dataset we readily have access to. However, we are thinking about how we can supplement our dataset with other sources such as hospital visits.
- Meredith: I wanted to follow up on Gunnar's question about race and equity. South Park is seeing a surge of traffic due to the West Seattle Bridge closure and there is a lot of community discussion about pedestrian and bike safety, especially for kids. We can't rely on past data, so we rely on anecdotes. With this data, it can be easy to overlook communities. Some communities are more privileged and feel comfortable reporting info to the police. I recommend that we weight the data to better represent other communities.
 - Dongho: I want to reiterate that this analysis allows us to have a proactive approach and not wait for people to report issues. Emails, find it fix it, and other reports are sources of info. However, in the long term, we are trying to systemically use projects to implement change. Through this analysis, we are

learning that there are tools, including very low-cost tools like leading pedestrian intervals (LPI), that can make a big change and reduce collisions.

- Ben: Do you have any updates on a no right on red policy?
 - Chris: We are still looking at the data.
- Sarah: We all got the email last week from Sam Zimbabwe about budget cuts. I hope that this data can be a factor in that decision-making efforts.
 - Chris: BPSA is more of a research program so it's unclear what the impacts are for funding this type of work.

4th Ave PBL

Presenters: Serena Lehman, SDOT

Presentation: See attached

Time: 6:54 pm

Discussion and Q&A:

- Meredith: Are you considering protection other than paint and posts?
 - Serena: Right now, due to budget considerations, the design just includes paint and posts. There are also a lot of events downtown, so posts allow for flexibility. We are also pursuing grants that could allow for more permanent protect in the future.
- Ben: Where will parking be located?
 - Serena: Parking will be located in the western-most 9' travel lane during off-peak periods.
- Meredith: How does this project dovetail with the plans for City Hall Park? And what happens to the existing parking on Dilling Way?
 - Serena: We are coordinating with that project. They don't have funding yet, but we will continue to work together as we both move forward. At this time, there is no anticipated conflict. We may have to remove parking on Dilling Way, or we may consider a greenway treatment with speed cushions.
- Sarah: I am very excited for this project. Unfortunately, we are seeing reductions in transit trips and transit funding reductions. For the foreseeable future, there will be less buses in the Phase 3 area. Is there any consideration for implementing a more direct option while there is less transit?
 - Serena: It's been very interesting to be working on this project using data from last year. We are recommending the Dilling Way alternative now, but the 4th Ave and 5th Ave routes are still future options – we just can't do them now.
- Patrick: This is awesome. Phase 1 is a great down payment on a complete 4th Ave route. There will be a lot of commuters who will not use the Dilling Way route because they don't want to go four blocks out of their way. Glad to see loading zones included, but my experience is that the main conflict downtown is passenger loading during peak hours. If there is not good place for passenger drop off, they will drive over the paint and posts. I support a more permanent buffer.
- Emily: Northbound cyclists may continue to ride on 4th Ave, but southbound cyclists may not continue on 4th Ave. It is still important to build the Dilling Way connection for non-commuters and all ages and abilities riders.
- Andy: Let's make sure there is good signage and wayfinding for people not familiar with the route.

- Patrick: What is the design north of Pine St?
 - Serena: Phase 2 will continue north of Pine St. Bus volumes drop off a lot, so we can keep more parking and still have a two-way bike lane.
- Emily: When the new light rail opens, Sound Transit bus routes may not be as high. Are there any considerations for that?
 - Serena: Some bus route reductions may occur as part of light rail service restructures, but those are many years out.
- Kashina: I can write a letter supporting the project as presented, but recommend more permanent protection and a more direct connection in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Vicky Clarke: I am very excited that 4th Ave PBL is a 2-way. However, it will be easy to never go back and make a direction connection to the south end. This is a compromise, so recommend that you go on the record asking for more robust production and a direct connection.

BOARD BUSINESS

- Approval of meeting minutes: June 3, 2020
 - Ben motioned to approve. Emily seconded. All approved.
- Board terms ending August 30, 2020
 - Simon: There are seven seats with terms ending August 30. First, Gunnar's Get Engaged Term ends and applications are open through July 13. There are also three Mayor and three Council-appointed seats. All seats are currently held by first-term members, so they are eligible for a second two-year term. Thanks to all members who have confirmed interest in a second term. Started to talk with Elliot Helmbrecht (Mayor's Office) and Toby Thaler (Council Member Pedersen's Office) about appointment process. In addition to considering members interested in a second term, they are very interested in increasing the racial diversity of the board. We are going to set up a meeting with Emily, Patrick, Elliot, and Toby to discuss the recruitment and appointment process.
 - Gunnar: I highly recommend the Get Engaged program. In addition to serving on SBAB, members meet monthly and participate in a fellowship program.
 - Meredith: It would be good to follow up with old SBAB members who left midterm and ask about barriers to participation.
- Policy and Operations Advisory Group Updates
 - Pierre: Alex and I attended the first meeting. There will be a total of six meetings over six months. Due to the time constraints, the meetings will be mostly informational, but there will be some opportunity for feedback. Alex and I will provide SBAB with an email summary following each meeting and allow some discussion at SBAB meetings.
- Budget prioritization letter
 - Patrick: The Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) wrote a letter about overall values to help guide the prioritization process. I think we should reiterate our priorities for South End and West Seattle projects. We should also express support for continuing planning studies such as Georgetown to Downtown. Shutting down planning projects makes them less shovel ready in the future.

- Meredith: I want us to support Duwamish Valley Safe Streets letter and prioritize West Seattle projects.
- Kashina: I think we should write a letter and restate priorities, especially for the South End.
- Sarah: Agree that we should write a letter.
- Patrick: What is timeline?
 - Simon: Projects included in Sam's letter are already paused, so your input will guide further prioritization if funding becomes available.
- Emily: I can draft a letter.
- School Traffic Safety Committee coordination
 - Patrick forwarded a request from Mary Ellen Russel for a SBAB member to attend an upcoming School Traffic Safety Committee meeting to discuss how the BMP can better interface with SPS properties.
 - Ben: I would be interested.
 - Meredith: I am also interested as a backup.
- Diversity work group
 - Patrick: This is an important topic, but we have such limited time during meetings. I recommend setting up a work group to dig deeper into this issue.
 - Gunnar: One thing we can do to make this group more welcoming is to write a letter supporting Black Lives Matter, investing in underserved communities, potentially defunding SPD.
 - Meredith: I support writing a letter and think it would be good to acknowledge the lack of current diversity and discuss perceived personal safety, not just traffic safety.
 - Gunnar: I can draft the letter
 - Sarah: Happy to help with the letter and can help and talk about history of racism in transportation.
 - Meredith: My reaction to first presentation was related to the fact that data is only as good as the input. If we continue to use the same data, we will continue to drive the same narrative. Numbers are easy to collect; voices are harder to hear from.
 - Emily: Interested members for the work group include Sarah, Kashina, Meredith, and Gunnar. Ben and possibly others may be interested. Just want to make sure we do not meet quorum for this work group.
 - Simon (follow up): Quorum is a simple majority, or 7 of 12 members. The work group can contain up to 6 members.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

- Kashina: Drafted a letter on the Pike + Pine Renaissance presentation from June.
 - Patrick: In June, we approved this letter in concept, so it is ok to send to Andrea for distribution.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

Meeting Minutes Distribution List:

- Jenny Durkan, Mayor, City of Seattle
- Brian Hawksford, Office of the Mayor
- Edie Gilliss, Office of the Mayor
- Transportation and Utilities Members
 - City Councilmember Alex Pedersen, Chair
 - City Councilmember Dan Strauss, Vice-Chair
 - City Councilmember Lorena Gonzalez
 - City Councilmember Lisa Herbold
 - City Councilmember Tammy Morales
 - City Councilmember Debra Jaurez
- Sam Zimbabwe, Director, SDOT
- Dongho Chang, City Traffic Engineer, SDOT
- Monica DeWald, Bike Master Plan and Neighborhood Street Fund Manager, SDOT
- Serena Lehman, Senior Transportation Planner, SDOT
- Simon Blenski, SBAB Liaison, SDOT
- Sam Assefa, Director, Office of Planning and Development (OPCD)
- Kathy Nyland, Director, Department of Neighborhoods (DoN)
- Meeting Presenters
- SBAB Members
- Individual Meeting Attendees