

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board



August 31, 2020

To: Sam Zimbabwe

Re: Support for and expanding Stay Healthy Streets

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board fully supports the work by the Mayor and SDOT to initiate the Stay Healthy Streets program in recent weeks during the current pandemic including the permanent closure of 20 miles of streets to through traffic. In conjunction with the Governor's Stay At Home orders, the Stay Healthy Streets program offers many public health benefits including safe physical activity, relief of mental stress, and fresh air for adults and children who need a break from being confined to their homes. It is also consistent with similar actions being taken in other cities.

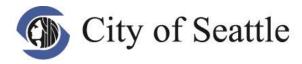
SBAB strongly supports and encourages you to accept the recommendation by Seattle Neighborhood Greenways (http://seattlegreenways.org/socialdistancingstreets/) to expand Stay Healthy Streets from the current 20 miles to a network of approximately 130 miles to provide public health benefits to a substantially larger proportion of Seattle residents. An expanded network of healthy streets that encourages bicycling for transportation would help relieve traffic congestion as we experience economic recovery but many former transit users may choose to drive rather than use public transit. The proposed network would also help reduce the crowding now seen on many of the city's existing multiuse trails because bicycle use has substantially increased during the current pandemic.

The 130 miles of suggested street closures were selected by Seattle Neighborhood Greenways with community input. Further community engagement and review of the specifics of each street by SDOT would be valuable before final choices are made. One of the advantages of these street closures is that they are inexpensive to implement and reversible if any unforeseen consequences occur. Overall, the city would be a better place to live if we rebalance streets for people and reduce the priority that has long been given to motor vehicles.

Patrick Taylor, Co-Chair
Emily Paine, Co-Chair
Alex Lew, Co Vice-Chair
Kashina Groves, Co Vice-Chair
Andrea Lai, Secretary
Pierre Brunelle
Gunnar Colleen
Andrew Danneberg
Benjamin Estes
Meredith Hall
Connor Inslee
Sarah Udelhofen

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planing processes insofar as they relate to bicylcing.

> - City Council Resolution 25534



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Sarah Udelhofen

Thank you for your consideration.

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board

Emily Paine Co-chair

Patrick Taylor Co-chair

Andrea Lai Secretary

Cc:

Mayor Durkan Seattle City Council Simon Blenski, SDOT

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