

Multi-use Trail Pilot Project

E-Bikes, Speed Limits, and Education



Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board

Presenter: Todd Burley, Sustainability Advisor

June 6, 2018



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

A Bike Commuting Family



My family
on our
Class 1
e-bike

We walk, run,
bird-watch, stroll,
and used to have
a dog, too.

The Situation on Our Multi-Use Trails



- No speed limit
- No motorized vehicles
- Shared use
- Multiple jurisdictions
- Limited signs
- Limited enforcement

Safety: many complaints of user conflicts, especially about speed

Clarity: users unsure of what is allowed and what isn't

Consistency: trail managers have inconsistent regulations

Enforcement: limited to no enforcement along trail

The Reality of Changing Use



People are biking more:

Bicycle use downtown tripled between 1992-2011.

376,000 riders on Burke-Gilman Trail in 2017.

392,000 riders on Elliott Bay Trail in 2017.

Biking is healthy, affordable, and sustainable transportation.



E-bike use is on the rise:

Sales up 450% nationally since 2013.

Attractive in hilly Seattle as bike infrastructure improves.



Bike share growing & includes e-bikes:

There were nearly 500,000 bike share trips from July-Dec.

E-bikes used 3X more than regular bikes.

Lime E soon to be 40% of fleet, with Spin adding soon.

State Electric Bike Legislation



New state law passed

- Classifies e-bikes
- Requires regulatory consistency on trail
- Requires bike labels
- Allows localization
- Begins July 2018

Class 1: Pedal-assist, 750 watt motor, 20 mph assist limit

Class 2: Pedal-assist plus throttle, 750 watt motor, 20 mph assist limit

Class 3: Pedal-assist, 750 watt motor, 28 mph assist limit

Seattle Parks Pilot Project



Five Multi-use Trails

1. Burke-Gilman Trail
2. Duwamish Trail
3. Elliott Bay Trail
4. Melrose Connector Trail
5. Mountains to Sound Trail

Summer 2018 – Summer 2019



Seattle Parks Pilot Project

Speed Limit: 15 mph
speed limit for all users



Allow E-Bikes: Allow Class 1 and
Class 2 electric-assisted bikes



Education: Safety campaign with SDOT & community partners



seattle.gov/visionzero
VISION ZERO
Seattle Department of Transportation



seattle.gov/visionzero
VISION ZERO
Seattle Department of Transportation



seattle.gov/visionzero
VISION ZERO
Seattle Department of Transportation



Pilot Project Evaluation



Bike Counters:

Partner with SDOT to collect data on use and speed.



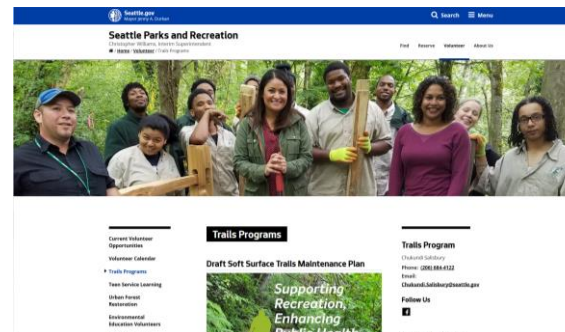
Surveys: On-site user surveys and online public survey.



Focus Groups: Stakeholder focus groups and conversations.

Public Input:

Webpage and email for comments.



Questions?



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

www.seattle.gov/parks

