February 14, 2018 | Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

Attendees: Hannah Keyes, Janine Blaeloch, Gordon Padelford, David Seater, Patricia Chapman, Angela Davis, Beau Morton

Minute Approval Discussion:

* Patricia: Change page 6 comment. Comment corrected in final January minutes.
  + January minutes approved pending change above.

Public Comment

* Jacob: bike are parked all over the city. Running into them with cane, esp at transit stops, downtown, all over the city. Limebikes and others. Not parked leaving sidewalk clear. Bike parking is a big problem for blind people.
* Doug: 2017 ped/traffic fatalities
  + See handouts.
* Belen: UW Mobility Strategy group just launched their website. Would we like a presentation?
* Comment about Curb Ramp presentation: great idea, want to look further into why single family homes are exempt from the policy.

North Downtown Mobility Action Plan (Plan) -- Ian Macek

* Purpose:
  + Part of arena MOU, $40M, plus $5M from port transportation fund
  + Connects to One Center City, Arena EIS
  + Uptown, SLU, Belltown
    - Why not Denny Triangle? A: Mostly based on which neighborhoods rallied for the funding from MOU.
* Built on existing plans
* Guiding Principles: (see presentation)
* Nearly halfway through project, at develop and evaluate phase
* Reviewed around 36 related plans
* Geocoding comments to see hotspots, where people have the greatest issues. Around Seattle Center, along Denny, Mercer
* Compare problem areas to planned projects to identify gaps
* See preliminary list of mobility needs in presentation.
* Some Ideas:
  + Better routes, pedestrian improvements, signal timing, Thomas Green Street, W Mercer missing sidewalk
* Prioritizing:
  + Will develop framework based on guiding principles to evaluate.
* How Can SPAB Help?
  + Share ideas, attend upcoming meetings
* How are you getting the word out?
  + Neighborhood groups, DON, just nailed down meetings and are working on getting the word out.
* Patricia: How will the money be used? Mostly for new projects? A: Depends, we will look at sidewalk assessment, other factors. Funding is for all modes, not just pedestrian.
* Angela: How can this process (different neighborhood groups coming together to get this funding) be repeated in other areas?
* Gordon: List of prioritization of intersections is good. Bigger picture request is that when going through prioritization process, think about how signal timing to increase driving speed impacts pedestrian experience. How can we think about pedestrian comfort and travel time? Impacts on pedestrian travel time.
* David: What timeline do you expect for implementation? A: Very hard to predict at this point.
* Janine: Careful to make sure that this is not spent on mitigation from EIS as there is separate funding for EIS.

Sidewalk Assessment and Prioritization Update -- Emily Burns & Bob Stewart

* Findings
  + Looked at over 34,000 blocks of sidewalks, 155,000 observations
  + Mainly concrete sidewalks, some others (like permeable surfaces, at-grade sidewalks)
  + Determined condition definitions (very poor-excellent), includes slope and width compliance with ADA
  + See Condition breakdown in presentation
  + Will do more comparison of 2007 to 2017 numbers
  + Tree related issues are very expensive, make up 12% of all issues
    - SDOT trees make up ~⅓ of uplift areas
    - Angela: How is hurdle of property owners paying for tree issues dealt with? A: Leans on property to pay city to repair sidewalk. Variety of options, but no solution at this point.
* Communications
  + Website has been updated with project findings, but data is in a beta format.
  + Condition data available through link in presentation.
  + Tree inventory with ownership data available through link in presentation.
  + Presenting to council on March.
* Timeline and Next Steps
  + Able to recognize efficiencies through this work for future projects.
  + Executive summary coming out soon, briefing council, final report coming out second half of 2018.
  + Will update status and condition report.
  + PAtricia: Can we get a copy of recommendations before you present to city council so that we can give input? A: Will check with legal.
* About Current sidewalk repair program:
  + Got ~1200 sidewalk complaints last year, $1,6M budget, was just increased by $2M
  + Currently complaint based.
  + Piecemeal repair, not full replacement with this program.
  + Going forward will change way to intake and respond to complaints. Use both complaints and Sidewalk Assessment data.
  + Who should people contact? A: 684-ROAD or Find-IT-Fix-IT App.
  + Gordon: How does the average citizen repair their sidewalk? A: We have a client assistance memo, it is expensive. We do respond to almost every complaint.
  + Public Question: Is there a place where people can find out how to deal with sidewalk problems? A: Currently just Client Assistance Memo.
  + Hannah: Can you get the information out in documents that residents already receive? Like SPU, etc. A: We will work on that in the next part of this project, as part of the education phase.
* There will be a great opportunity to come back to SPAB to discuss where we want to focus sidewalk repairs.
* Patricia: Really want to be able to advocate to council on behalf on this project to try to get additional repair funding. A: Will make every effort to get presentation to the board prior to the council meeting.

Land Use Code Requirement: Curb Ramps

* Code Section 23.53.006
  + Currently silent on curbs and curb ramps
  + Have only been minor edits since 2007 adoption
  + Want to update language to include curb ramps and curbs as part of pedestrian access and circulation requirements.
    - Would require developments to install curb ramps, make sidewalks wide enough.
    - Bring Urban Centers and Urban Villages to new ROWIM standards.
      * What that specifically means (narrow road lanes, setbacks, etc.) can be different in different situations.
  + Developments are not currently required to build curb ramps on corners.
  + Looking to publish SEPA review by end of Q3.
  + Website with listserve signup available via link in presentation.

Board Business:

* Reports from other Boards:
  + Levy Oversight Meeting: (Notes to be provided by David)
    - Darby Watson talked about 2018 work plan, would be at 48% of promised sidewalks by end of year.
  + Angela going to State of the City, should she say anything on behalf of the board? Howard: Probably just the Mayor speaking. Should be streaming on the Seattle Channel. Gordon: Our top priority is getting more funding. Howard: We can also explore asking to Mayor to attend a SPAB meeting.
  + District 5 (Council) Meeting: Fairly good Q&A meeting. Had representatives from many neighborhood groups represent themselves.
  + Janinemet Dave Ramsey is a SPAB candidate, former Feet First director. Had a good conversation, he would make a good addition to the board.
* Recruitment Update: 5 open positions, 58 applicants. Will interview 15, hope to finish by end of February to have final 5 coming on board in April. Diversity on the boards is a top priority for the Mayor.
* Letter regarding SDOT Director search:
  + Sent around rough outline, everyone’s voice is needed.
  + Space for other multi-modal boards in add their goals.
  + Howard: Bike and Transit boards felt this was a great idea. Will provide comments.
  + Draft was sent to SPAB on Jan 16.
* Retreat planning:
  + Best to have retreat sooner and have our plan/goals sooner or best to wait for new board members to join in april?
  + There could be a second, smaller meeting to catch up new members.
  + New members could have a body of work/work plan to refer to when they begin.
  + March 10th is the date that works best for the majority of the board.
  + David will coordinate with Howard on the location.