School Traffic Safety Committee Meeting Notes

November 18, 2016

**Agenda**:

8:30-8:35 Public Comment

8:35-8:45 Approval of March minutes

8:45-9 Intersection Review (at the request of two schools)

9-9:30 Start times

9:30-9:40 Mode Choice Data- discussion with SPS PE Director

9:40-9:50 SDOT annual report on progress

9:50- 10 Let’s Go Program Updates

10-10:10 SPD Schools & Traffic Report

10:10-10:20 Crossing Guard Updates

10:20-10:30 Future Topics & Announcements

**Attendees**:

Committee Members:

✓Shanti Breznau (citizen at large)

✓Yvonne Carpenter (SPS)

✓Jen Cole, Chair (Pedestrian Safety)

Brian Dougherty (SDOT)

An Huynh, Secretary (citizen at large)

✓Serena Lehman (SDOT)

✓Shannon Koller (Cascade)

✓Kevin O’Neil (SPD)

✓Alyssa Smith (parent rep)

✓Richard Staudt (SPS)

✓Cathy Tuttle (citizen, SNG)

Others:

Cailin Henley, [chenley2@uw.edu](mailto:chenley2@uw.edu), MPHc UW COPHP

Nora Smith, Community Volunteer, Sand Point Elementary, Intersection Conversation

**ACTION**: Jen to add Cailin to agenda emails ([chenley2@uw.edu](mailto:chenley2@uw.edu))

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of March minutes, Action Items**

* ✓ In Design files sent
* ✓ Minutes approved, no discussion
* **ACTION**: Print Golden Shoe and Spoke Awards

**Alyssa: Seattle Parks and Recreation, Role**

* Discussion of conflict of interest, nothing school related, times and programs affected by Parks.
* Role first and foremost as Parent
* More synergy rather than conflict of interest

**Intersection Review (at the request of two schools)**

* Look at Sand Point and Woodland for crossing guard placements
* Examine four intersections
  + First intersection: Sand Point Way and 65th
    - Crossing from the west going east
    - Students come in from directly north (Magnuson) and west, but not north west
    - Rank it by classification of streets: Sand Point Way is a “minor arterial.” North of 65th principal arterial as speed limit is 40, SDOT controlled, south is minor arterial of WSDOT. 65th is a minor arterial.
    - Distance from which object see 3ft tall – good visual distance
    - Full signal traffic control
    - Regular person speed limit: (30mph- North, over 35-South).
    - No speed cameras or beacons
    - No collisions at intersections in last 3 years
    - Property boundaries close to intersection crossing
    - Current rubric does not assess one leg of the intersection, only the intersection as a whole
    - Use 65th: Boats, Seattle Children’s Satellite parking.
    - **Qualifies for Adult Guard: 19 points: would justify adult crossing guard (looks at intersection at a whole, no way to segregate the directionality with turning movement); 7th ranking intersection in the city.**
    - Crossing estimate at 65th and Sand Point – (Nora) 70 and 90 students that live within couple blocks that *could* cross there. Very few kids are walking from Hawthorne Hills, parents drive.
    - Will be more kids with Mercy and Solid Ground housing – crossing 65th not sand points.
    - Walk boundary – south of 65th; hard stop at Sand Point way, shrunk walk boundary. \* Something for the walk boundary committee – if to place a guard there, would need to open walk boundary, cannot get a bus.
    - Cascade has worked with PE teacher at Sand Point: after school bike clubs and walk/bike to school. Active appliers for SRTS mini grants.
    - **Potential ACTION**: Ped/bike counts to see how many students crossing; not appropriate for student patrol.
    - Crossing guard N/S 65th – but Sand Point Way crossings may engage crossing guard, and if open up Sand Point intersection, then may affect walk boundary, then change the bus practices.
    - According to crossing guard committee- multiple lanes, *best practices* say need crossing guard at both sides.
  + 64th and 60th: adult crossing guard rank 7 points, no adult guard recommended
    - student patrol SDOT recommends within distance of the school, only one house between school and intersection
    - WSDOT law: adjacent to the school; SDOT law: within site distance
    - **ACTION**: Kevin O’Neill willing to come out and train crossing guards, Get in on the Tuesday meeting with AAA 1:30pm.
    - Nora contacted AAA, come out to discuss best practices
    - View Ridge: really active student safety control, good resource for Nora
    - Student Patrol Supervisor: Had to be offered to all SEA members, had to decline before work assigned to someone else on volunteer or paid basis; discussing group of volunteers rather than single person. Starting part time, until mustering enough adults.
    - Qualifies as appropriate intersection for school patrol
  + NW 3rd St & 58th AVE NW: West Woodland
    - Currently have crossing guards on 3rd and 56th and Market & 5th?
    - Only difference in two conditions (56th vs. 58th) 56th has a 4 way stop, but 58th is an uncontrolled stop; speed signed at 30 mph on 3rd, regardless of new laws
    - Concerns: get off the hill; poor sightlines; cut around market/8th/15th, going 30 with minimal stops.
    - Propose that it too be ranked, but funneling kids one more block and maintain crossing guard at another school; looking at school crossing guard distribution across the city.
    - Several schools have precedent with multiple crossing gaurds.
    - This school is #1 for walkers in the city
    - **Rank 15**: vs. midblock crossing would rank at 14 points; Refrain from assigning a guard, with attempts to add crossing flags.
    - What sort of infrastructure improvements for SRTS April? Very little improvements possible; flags possible. Crossing guards are a band aid to engineering needs.
* Funding conundrum: incentivize more active transportation to/from school would require more funding for adult crossing guard program.
  + Families & Edu Levy, but pulled, SPS have to find sources of funding
  + Funding likely not to expand, “dollars have to stay in the classroom”
* No equity filter on crossing guard rubric, only based on engineering: future, add the equity & availability. Looked at as a judgement call.
  + HEAT maps
  + Speeds
  + Gaps in traffic
  + Seconds to wait to cross

**Start times (Shanti)**

* Next year: another proposed schedule time; district wide addition of 1hr net; final move to get up to the full instructional hours, 20 mins per day, with a 1hr early dismissal. Having planning periods?
* 6 different proposals
  + 2 start 20 min early
  + 2 end 20 min later
  + 2 split: 10 min earlier, 10 min later
* Teaching and Learning recommendation: go with the split, 10 min earlier, 10 min later, according to online surveys (tier 1 elementary asked for later, tier 2/3 middle/high asked for 20 early)
* Concerns: no mention of issues of visibility, walking/biking safety in the dark.
* For current (2016-2017) change, there was discussion on visibility active transportation issues
* How light is light enough to be safe = civil twilight (Board made); cloud cover in the city; vulnerable populations
* Seattle Parks & Rec: stringent guidelines on visibility for water (sunrise/sunset with 10 mins wiggle room depending on cloud cover)
* Implications of timing and what it means:
  + Walk zones, in general, 1 mile radius – kids walking 2 mph, talking about 30 min walk from edges of walk zone. 7:10am, but playground monitored 25 mins before bell
  + Walking school buses more effected: lost families with earlier start time, do participating families and WSB leaders feel safe? Controlling kindergarteners
  + Equity issues: few parent accompaniment; implications for walk zone boundaries
  + Should be formal consideration of visibility in these decisions
* Structural Choices as a Committee:
  + December/January 18th board meeting for approval?
  + Advocacy Letter, but figure out boundaries, ask that the walk time be considered so that no person needs to start walking prior to civil twilight (30 mins prior to school)
* **ACTION**: Shanti talk with Brian to address missing information from Task Force on how it was considered or not in next year’s decision; send out email based on discussion.
* **ACTION**: Alyssa? To figure out when Board Meeting approval of start times.
* **ACTION:** Shanti to draft several versions of letter, including disagreement/support of civil twilight vs. sunrise/sunset. Solve problem by saying civil twilight wrong, go back to make sunrise/sunset, in reference to Parks. Email sharing and have signed by chair.

**Mode Choice Data- discussion with SPS PE Director**

* Update on conversation with Laurie Dunn, manager of PE/Health teachers in School District
* How better capture mode choice data, separate from first week June.
  + Have teachers enter data in Well Net, but difficult to extract data, protected.
  + Teacher evaluation at end of unit, asking 3 different times: Week 1, 2, 3, same categories on National SRTS tool.
* Report back in July

**SDOT annual report on progress**

* Sept 2015- Aug 2016 School Year
* Ashley and Brian
* SRTS launch in 2015: annual reports on how SDOT doing; matrix has evaluation items
* Publishing report by end of November 2016 with matrix
* Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Encouragement programs
* Huge highlights:
  + Let’s Go program, 3rd-5th graders in all public schools and middle school pilot program, infographics.
  + Walk & Bike to School Maps: walking and biking conditions in the walk zones in all public schools; now published online in map form, not just PDF
  + Feet First: improve arrival/departure schedule; lessons learned from committee. Online incentive program, mailed by Feet First.
  + Pace Car Campaign: drivers with stickers, piloted at John Muir, (forms English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali), worked with SPD to do enforcement, redistributed campaign and yard signs for safe driving 800 signs.
  + SNG: as model for tailored signs that work for the community
  + Encouragement:
    - beginners guide for SRTS;
    - Donut Breaks: SDOT works with PTA to hand out stickers, swag, etc. to schools, target parents to hand out safety and mini grant information.
    - Bike Works: We Create the Wheel, 400 low income youth and adults. Beacon Hill, Dunlap, GHS, Interagency, Rainier View, Seattle World School, …
  + Engineering:
    - Data driven prioritization lens: collision, race/ethnicity, master plan; rerunning every year in first quarter when new Ped Plan adopted.
    - 18 engineering projects at priority schools
    - Engineering toolkit of SRTS treatments, when and where to use.
    - Bike rack inventory at all schools; working with Gretchen at SPS to get good bike parking at all schools
    - **ACTION**: Shannon asks Serena about using different racks than CORA.
  + Enforcement:
    - 11 new sites for safety cameras, 6 schools
    - SPD outreach: webpages and brochures of where they are
    - School Safety Emphasis Patrols: speed studies in 130 school zones, using data for engineering improvements: RRFB’s and improved crossings.
    - Working with SPD for enforcement and sign updates for school zone loading
    - **ACTION**: Serene to look into adding updated signage for time restriction limit, driver stay with vehicle.
    - SPD community outreach for awards to drivers doing the right thing.

**Let’s Go Program Updates**

* Getting feedback from teachers; tweaking lessons of materials for ease of use
* 14 possible points for student assessment, 4 pt category is concerning, students getting wrong, will not adjust midyear, but next year.

**SPD Schools & Traffic Report**

* 164 less violators; tickets down in a full month of school
* Mercer and Bailey Gatzert reduced speed violations
* Make crossing guard longer at Hazel Wolf and Beacons not on during day O’Neill visited
* **ACTION**: Cathy to start entering data

**Crossing Guard Updates**

* New guards: Hazel Wolf, Leschi, Thurgood Marshall, Bailey Gatzert
* Moved guards from Bagley to Stevens.
* Two guards discussion: 19th and Highland- SDOT update: very likely to put in 4-way stop

**Future Topics & Announcements**

* SDOT Pathfinder’s mini grant for circulation signage:
  + New Signage: Separated Bused & Vehicles
  + SM4 buses with parent pick up vehicles
  + **ACTION**: Serena to make connection for school parent with SPS
  + Conversation with committee, pending receiving more details, but Committee permission unnecessary
* Lincoln High School design review
* Update on Start Times

**Next Meeting: December 16th** 🡪 **ACTION**: Serena/SDOT to update STSC meeting schedule online

**Compiled Action Items:**

* **ACTION**: Jen to add Cailin to agenda emails ([chenley2@uw.edu](mailto:chenley2@uw.edu))
* **ACTION**: (WHO?) Print Golden Shoe and Spoke Awards
* **ACTION**: Serena/SDOT to update STSC meeting schedule online
* **ACTION**: Serena to make connection for Pathfinder school parent with SPS
* **ACTION**: Cathy to start entering speed violation data
* **ACTION**: Serena to look into adding updated signage for time restriction limit, driver stay with vehicle
* **ACTION**: Shanti talk with Brian to address missing information from Task Force on how active transit visibility was considered or not in next year’s decision; send out email based on discussion.
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* **ACTION:** Shanti to draft several versions of letter, including disagreement/support of civil twilight vs. sunrise/sunset. Solve problem by saying civil twilight wrong, go back to make sunrise/sunset, in reference to Parks. Email sharing and have signed by chair.
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* **Potential ACTION**: SDOT to do Ped/bike counts to see how many students crossing 65th-Sand Point; not appropriate for student patrol.