



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

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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 planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

- City Council Resolution
25534

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board

September 18, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Seattle Department of Transportation
700 Fifth Avenue
Suite 3800
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board, I am writing to express our support for the City of Seattle's Reconnecting Communities Program request for funding to construct the Beacon Avenue Safety and Transit Improvement project. This project will construct the middle segment of the Beacon Avenue protected bike lane, safe routes to school and vision zero improvements, roadway rechannelization and transit prioritization, and improvements along the corridor to improve transit speed and reliability for the Metro Route 36.

Located in Beacon Hill, this project will serve a neighborhood historically overburdened by barriers resulting from racist and discriminatory policies that have perpetuated alongside increasing displacement pressure and gentrification. Bound by Interstate 5 to the west, this neighborhood will benefit significant improvements in safety, access and connectivity for people walking, biking and taking transit included in the scope of the Beacon Avenue Corridor project. In 2019, Seattle's Department of Transportation (SDOT) partnered with Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods (DON) to conduct outreach to learn about community priorities for places to bike. Community feedback communicated the importance of creating more bike routes in Southeast Seattle to connect people to the neighborhood and job centers, specifically on Beacon Hill.

As a result, SDOT initiated work on the corridor, investing on a safety project that includes a continuous protected bike lane providing a flat

and direct north-south bike connection through the neighborhood. This project would build the middle section in Beacon Hill, connecting to protected bike lanes currently under construction to the north of this project area. The middle section will also provide access to transit that connects to Downtown and several regional centers, including Metro Bus Route 36 and multiple Link Light Rail stations within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile or less of the corridor. Safe routes to school and vision zero improvements will further enhance safety along the corridor, along with wayfinding, lighting, and signalization considerations. As light rail connections increase rapidly throughout our region, so does the need for safe, inclusive, and affordable access to transit. Unfortunately, these growing needs far outpace the capacity of local agencies.

This important project focuses on enhancing conditions for all roadway users and building a more connected community in one of Seattle's highest equity priority areas. We urge you to consider fully funding Seattle's request for the Beacon Avenue Safety and Transit Improvement project.

Sincerely,

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board