

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee

March 21, 2025

Members (X = present)

X	Brooke Nelson	SPS, Safe Routes to School Coordinator
	Carlos Del Valle	SPS
	Diane Walsh	SDOT liaison
X	Gary Davenport	SPD
X	Kelsey Rote	Secretary, Volunteer
X	Margaret McCauley	Volunteer
X	Maris Zivarts	Volunteer
X	Mary Ellen Russell	Volunteer
X	Noa Guter	Volunteer
X	Robbie Frankel	King County Metro (joined meeting late)
X	Ryan Baum	Chair, Volunteer
X	Sara Colling	SDOT
X	Steven Richard	SPS, Director of Transportation
X	Yvonne Carpenter	SPS, Field Staff and Crossing Guard Supervisor

Other attendees:

Kerry Breakfield - Teamsters 174, representative of school bus drivers at First Student

Dana Del Monte Townsend – community member, husband is a teacher at Washington Middle School

Two students from Meany Middle School – Aissata Bah and Charlie McGuane

Beth Day – may apply to Mary Ellen’s position on committee

Fox13

Agenda:

1. Public comment

a. Students from [Meany Middle School](#)

- i. Aissata - showing up today to advocate for safe street crossing and crosswalks, since they were previously hit by a car on the way to school. Asking to add a flashing beacon or something to ensure kids safety at Meany middle school.
- ii. Charlie - John and 21st street is where the child was hit, he would like for it to be safer to go to and from school so that he could start walking or biking. Not the community he wants to have around the school. More work needs to be done. Install a crosswalk light and flashing beacon on 21st and John and continue traffic calming and other measures.
- iii. Response: internally Sara and others are pushing for improvements and will keep them updated. Inviting rep for a site visit would be potentially effective too to bring attention and resources to that location.

b. Dana: sent an email previously, husband works at [Washington Middle School](#), driving east on Weller, Franz semis pulled onto street while students were walking

and getting to school, another semi was pulling in and out of loading bay in the way of students. Husband has talked about the chaos of the streets surrounding the school, and a student was recently killed there.

- i. Margaret noted that she has also witnessed this chaos, restricting Weller and 20th to buses and Franz would help since it would alleviate the addition of cars.
 - ii. Kerry, with the school bus union, said that parents in their cars will enter the safety load zone where only buses are supposed to be, so it's a constant issue of cars clogging up Weller all the way out to the main road, making it hard for the Franz semis to enter and exit.
 - iii. Previous efforts? There's a recognition that we need to keep 20th clear for buses, there are sometimes cones and signs (but not happening during this school year), not an official School Street. You can drop off at Jackson and on Lane. Could Weller and 20th be official school streets in a way that would still allow Franz? Yes, it would be local access, no conflict. Making 20th restricted to only school buses from 7-5 on weekdays would be a quick and substantial improvement. **Robbie noted a traffic study from the 2010's – he'll try to find that.**
 - iv. Gary from SPD – how does the school district and the city deal with the fact that a student was killed? A vehicle the parent thought was secure was not and went downhill and hit a student, bollards were meant to stop a vehicle from moving further, several students got pushed out of the way and one student directly where the bollard was. There is still an active investigation into what went wrong with the car. What can our group do to assist the schools?
 1. Noting that the bollards or gate posts are on the inside of the sidewalk, not on the car/street side of the sidewalk. A physical improvement would be to put bollards on the street side of the sidewalk, but questions about whether that would block school buses from turning and whether that would be ADA acceptable. SDOT could run a modeling of that turn to see if it could work with bollards or trees. Could the sidewalk be widened there or elsewhere? Could we get three-minute load zones on Jackson? Could Metro add or move a bus stop in that area (w/ bus bulb) or right in front of the school? What capital investments could be made and/or how could funds be combined from multiple sources?
- c. Action items from public comment discussion:
- i. **Robbie is going to start the process of looking into moving the bus stop**
 - ii. **Sara, Brooke, and Diane will look into**
 1. **School Streets and other traffic calming ideas**
 2. **whether we can widen sidewalks, put in bollards, and other things to put in more of a buffer between kids and cars**
 3. **curbs cuts and moving entrances and access, close one driveway and create additional access - raise this idea with SPS capital projects**
 4. **whether there are any levies coming in that could be utilized or combined**

- iii. **Margaret will include in discussion with the school access to parking lot, should it be restricted to staff members to restrict personal vehicles, and use of a person on staff (or cone) to block vehicles but allow buses**
- 2. Review of minutes and previous action items
 - a. **Diane action items from February meeting – we should follow up on those next meeting**
 - b. **Sara - Evaluate speed cushions on South Lucile Street by Cleveland High School**
 - c. **Ryan may show up for public comment on behalf of board at Freight committee/board**
 - d. **Steven will make a phone call re: when walk map updates and releases to the public will happen**, Brooke noted that it happened previously during the summer months. Walk boundary sub-committee needs a way to track which things have been implemented and been picked up, **walk committee will look into a process improvement for this**
 - e. Minutes approved
- 3. SPS and crossing guard update
 - a. SPS update – **slides**
 - i. Bike month planning begins, Moveathon collaborations with MLK and Dearborn Park, youth summit outreach
 - ii. Wing Luke Let's Go, Gatzert Walk Group doing it daily now led by staff of the school, funding from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to support Dunlap Walk and Bike to School programs
 - iii. Crossing guard recruitment and appreciation, flyer now has map of vacancies and has updated minimum wage, **Brooke will send committee members a PDF of the recruitment flyer for them to pass along to their communities, Brooke and Sara will also make a flyer for intersections that need a crossing guard, Brooke will add community centers to her route**
 - iv. Walk and Bike to School Month promotion – has posted on SPS all staff communication newsletter, **Brooke will work on google group and why we're not getting messages from it**
 - b. Crossing guards:
 - i. Lost one guard, another is ready to be trained, another just got approved by HR, and one more that HR hasn't cleared yet. Yvonne is getting more people calling now that it's springtime.
 - ii. Interviewing for Yvonne's position soon
- 4. SDOT update – **slides**
 - a. Assistant planner position starting soon
 - b. Speed cushions on some arterials coming soon, by Kimball Elementary and Lakeridge Elementary
 - c. School zone flashing beacons at Ingraham High School coming
- 5. Dream, Play, Build
 - a. Committee did a modeling exercise that school staff will do