

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee
Meeting held Online.
January 19, 2024

SSTSC Members (X = present)

- X Mary Ellen Russell, volunteer
- X Margaret McCauley, volunteer
- X Marilyn Firman, volunteer
- X Robbie Frankel, King County Metro
- X Noa Guter, volunteer, chair
- X Gary Davenport, SPD
- X Yvonne Carpenter, SPS
Diane Walsh, SDOT
- X Brooke Nelson, SPS
- X Ryan Baum, volunteer
- X Kelsey Rote, volunteer

Other attendees

Fred Young, SDOT
Sara Colling, SDOT
Steven Richard, SPS
Ryan Packer, The Urbanist
Radcliffe Dacanay, SDOT

Public Comment:

None

Last Month Minutes and Action update items:

Mary Ellen moved, and Ryan seconded to have the minutes approved.

SPS Update: Brooke Nelson, Yvonne Carpenter, Steven Richard

Crossing Guard update: no new crossing guards this month.

May is Bike to School Month. Brooke is preparing a document for the Bike to School Campaign for Volunteer Guides for walking school buses. There is also need for multilingual instructions. The Cascade Bicycle Club is a resource for in-person Bicycle training. There is interest in a Bike Mobile Event at Dunlap, South Shore, and MLK elementaries. There is interest in bike repair events at the same time. Mary Ellen commented that Greenlake Elementary has for many years had a Bike Rodeo which her children enjoyed.

SDOT Update: Sara Colling

Sara presented pictures of the Traffic Garden at Kimball Elementary. Traffic Gardens are also in place or planned for West Seattle, Viewlands, and James Baldwin Elementaries.

The SDOT Art Expert spent 3 days with Emerson Elementary students helping them design an eagle for their upcoming traffic improvement project.

All-way stops implementation was discussed for various schools.

SDOT also did walk inspections of Concord and John Stanford elementary in preplanning for street improvements. At Concord, there needs to be a walkway project to get to 14th. There is currently asphalt with no curb at walking space. It needs wheel stops and trees planted. SDOT is cooperating with Urban Forestry in these projects. John Stanford needs traffic diversion on 5th Avenue, a substantial change. We will check back later this summer about these plans.

The committee discussed how projects are prioritized for the upcoming levy. SSTSC wants to make sure walking and biking to school is also part of the Levy conversation. Mary Ellen moved, and Marilyn seconded to appoint **Action: a sub-committee including Margaret, Brooke, and Noa**, to advocate with the levy committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Walk Zone Sub-Committee Updates: Mary Ellen Russell

The committee met and they are fine-tuning the rubric. They plan to meet monthly until they finish. They will score Emerson Elementary first. They want to get a rubric set up that they can use to roll through schools quickly once the rubric is perfected. Also, they are planning an orientation sheet so that in the future others will be able to continue to use this rubric with consistency.

Land-Use Code Update: Mary Ellen Russell

The land use code update is on track according to Chanda Emery from SCDI. **Action: Noa, Margaret, and Marilyn** will connect with their local council members to express the committee's support in the code changes.

2024 Committee Priorities: Noa Guter

1. Automatic Enforcement Tickets, and Bus Paddle tickets. A long discussion ensued. The idea is to augment rather than replace the police by encouraging the use of a new category of officers who could issue tickets from videos. It was moved by Marilyn and seconded by Mary Ellen that **Action: Margaret** will draft a letter to Jon Snyder at the Governor's office. This passed unanimously. **Kelsey**, on her own time, will review the letter and find out where it needs to go.
2. Land Use Code Change. This is not making headway. A letter was discussed but we decided to postpone it until next month after we see what is happening.
3. School Streets: 13 schools now have school streets. 3 or more are moving to permanent 24/hr. school streets. SDOT is willing to have as many school streets as wanted. It requires a request from the school, and a quick SDOT review, and then it takes about 2 weeks to get signs and neighbors updated.
4. Crossing Guard positions need filling.
5. Levy

STP UPDATE: Radcliffe Dacanay SDOT Policy and Planning

1. One new pilot project is letting big trucks use the Transit-only lanes in some areas and/or at some times. This plan will be surgical i.e. only where needed.
2. Shared streets: There may be deliveries at certain times (ex. before 6:AM) so bikers and walkers can use the streets during regular hours.
3. Our concern still is school buses and walkers getting across the Freeway, Aurora and MLK which bisect the town. Even the town meeting groupings seem to be on one side or the other of the freeway. Radcliffe said they are focusing on the issue of "lidding it" but it will not be accomplished in the next five years.
4. In mid-February the mayor's recommended plan will be released to the City Council.

BUS Update: Steven Richards

The busing is going as smoothly as possible, however having two providers is not the most economical option. Senate bill SB5873 is going through the Senate to fully fund transportation. This would include not only busing unhoused students across town but also crossing guards and the active transportation coordinator. Marilyn moved, Mary Ellen seconded, and it was unanimously approved to appoint a subcommittee to investigate and support this legislation. **Action: Noa** will appoint the subcommittee.

FUTURE TOPICS

1. Roxhill Elementary School Issues

Next Meeting: February 16, 2024