

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee
Meeting held Online
July 21, 2023

SSTSC Members (X = present)

- X Lee Bruch (community volunteer)
- X Mary Ellen Russell, (parent volunteer)
- X Margaret McCauley (pedestrian safety advocate and secretary)
- X Marilyn Firman (citizen-at-large)
- X Robin Schwartz (parent volunteer)
Robbie Frankel (Metro Representative)
- X Noa Guter (Chair, parent volunteer)
- X Gary Davenport (SPD Liaison)
Yvonne Carpenter (SPS field staff supervisor)
- X Diane Walsh (SDOT Representative)
Sara Colling (SDOT Representative)

Other attendees

- Steven Richard (SPS)
- Marni Campbell (SPS Executive Director of Operations)
- Radcliffe Dacanay (SDOT Policy and Planning Group)
- Ryan Packer (The Urbanist reporter)
- Wan-Lin (Metro replacement for Robbie Frankel while he is on parental leave)
- Luke Distelhorst (King County Metro Community Engagement Lead)
- Corey Holder (King County Metro Project Manager)

Link on the SSTSC Website for this meeting is not working. **Action: Diane** will look into it.

SDOT Seattle Transportation Comprehensive Plan Update: Radcliffe Dacanay

The draft for the Phase 3 Plan is in the mayor's, it should be available for release in September. When the Phase 3 Plan is released an official letter from the volunteers of this committee would be helpful. We will be notified when the Comprehensive Plan is released in time to review and write the letter.

In addition, the mayor's office has requested to identify three candidates for a new low pollution neighborhoods program. Community leaders from South Park, Georgetown, Ballard, Capitol Hill, and Lake City neighborhoods have expressed interest, and other neighborhoods may also be of interest.

Public Comment: none

SDOT Update: Diane Walsh

They have interviewed two prospective new members for this committee.

On August 1st, at 9:30 AM, there will be a presentation of the Annual Report to the Transportation Committee of the City Council. All other members are encouraged to attend. **Action: Margaret, Mary Ellen, Noa, and Diane** will present.

Next month we will have a report on the school zone cameras.

SPS Report: Marni Campbell

A replacement for Sara Colling has been identified with a target start date in August. According to Steven Richards there were over 100 candidates, most of whom were very qualified.

SPS has completed updated Transportation Service Standards for the next school year. 12 schools are changing start times and rerouting buses. They are eliminating shuttle services for High School.

Lynnwood Service Connections: Phase 3 proposal: Luke Distelhorst and Corey Holder

<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/programs-projects/fares-routes-and-service/lynnwood-link-connections.aspx>

Maps included in the above web site were discussed. Corey Holder said that the Link Train to Lynnwood would be opened in 2024 with all stations except the 130th station, which will open in 2026. 23 bus routes will interact with 8 of them being peak time only. They are coordinating with the Seattle Metro. Full restoration of pre-pandemic service is expected. The priority population services are those of color, poverty, disabled, differing language and other equity parameters.

Highlights Include:

- Retaining Route 65 to Nathan Hale and Jane Adames
- Improving East-West Connections
- Lake City will become a Hub
- Route from Lake City to Roosevelt Station
- Route from Northgate to the college and Northwest Hospital across the freeway.
- Better Connections to Roosevelt High School and Ingraham High School

Luke Distelhorst spoke about implementing lessons learned from the last survey when communicating with the public. The bus stop signs were very effective and will be increased. There will be a shorter, quicker survey.

Questions:

1. Routes across I-5? School with boundaries crossing I-5 and about ¼ of all North Seattle residents can't easily get a bus to cross I-5.
 - a. Route 79 doesn't have parking available at the end of the route.
 - b. They have done coach tests and can't find turnarounds possible without major, expensive roadwork. Much discussion followed here and an SDOT person rides with the coach tests and is aware. Long-term there will be changes.

2. What about routes suspended due to Covid? There continue to be workforce shortages and routes are being returned as soon as the workforce becomes available. There is still a shortage of about 400 workers.
3. Site for more information: <https://kingcountymetro.blog/2023/05/11/metro-will-adjust-schedules-on-sept-2-to-improve-trip-reliability/>

Last Month Minutes and Action update items:

1. **Action: Scoring Rubric Committee:** Carried over from May. This is ongoing. Mary Ellen said another committee meeting is to be scheduled.
2. **Candidate Debate:** This was not well attended. Mary Ellen asked about walk areas and sidewalks so that will be in the candidates' minds.
3. **Flashing Beacons** will be discussed in August.
4. **Automated Enforcement: Action: Noa** It will be on the August agenda.
5. **Action: Marni** will double check that the Annual report is on the school board agenda.
6. Question: How do we get the annual report issues before the legislators?

Mary Ellen moved, and Margaret seconded to have the minutes approved. They were approved unanimously.

SPS Update:

Marni continued. Negotiations are underway with the City Attorney and the City Attorney's office to employ people to review the stop paddle tickets. The Marni estimates they are about 70% in agreement. The financing part is an issue. There is a need to get the cameras and equipment functioning again and allocate personnel. It will probably be January before they can get operational.

The school operation deficit will precipitate a deep review of what we think the schools should look like. This would be done before any talk of school closures. <https://www.seattleschools.org/news/well-resourced-schools-engagement/> is a blog where more information on possible plans is available.

Crossing Guard Update: Stephen Richards

Yvonne is at a conference, so Steven reported for her. A principal at Alki Elementary asked for an additional crossing guard next year when they are moved to a temporary school during construction. A lengthy discussion followed. A motion was made (Marilyn, Mary Ellen) to appoint a sub-committee of Steven, Yvonne, and Mary Ellen to decide when Yvonne returns because the decision needs to be made promptly and Yvonne's input is important. There was unanimous agreement. **Action: Steven will update the committee if the request was granted**

Annual Report: Margaret and Mary Ellen

The few changes made were mainly minor; typos or acronym consistency etc. The only discussion that ensued was about page 11, Busing as a Learning Support and p. 6 where similar issues were involved. Again, lengthy discussion followed with differing opinions. All wanted consistent and equitable standards for unusual situations where buses are used inside current walk boundaries. These occur at

times and are currently not reimbursed. Volunteer members of the committee feel strongly that these costs should be reimbursed. That paragraph was sent back to our wordsmiths for revision.

The committee commended Margaret and Mary Ellen for an outstanding report.

Franklin High School: **Action Margaret** will recruit a subcommittee and organize meeting.

There is a problem at Franklin, but we were already eight minutes overtime and people were leaving so Margaret was asked to get a subcommittee to solve this by email and report back to the next meeting.

Future Topics:

- Annual Report Response
- Recruiting crossing guards.
- Land Use Planning Report?
- August: Stop Paddle Report
- Franklin High School Issue

Next Meeting: August 18, 2023, Online