

**Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee  
Meeting held online and at Room 2765, John Stanford Center  
October 21, 2022, Minutes**

**SSTSC Attendees**

- X Richard Staudt (SPS)
- X Lee Bruch (community volunteer)
- X Mary Ellen Russell, Chair (parent volunteer)
- X Margaret McCauley (pedestrian safety advocate)
- X Marilyn Firman (citizen-at-large)
- X Robin Schwartz (parent volunteer)
- X Robbie Frankel (Metro Representative)
- X Ashley Rhead (SDOT host)
- X Noa Guter  
Gary Davenport SPD Liaison
- X Sara Colling, Safe Routes to School Coordinator
- X Diane Walsh: SDOT, Will become our SDOT representative.

**Other attendees**

Shelly Kerby, Seattle Schools  
Joe Hebert: SPS Transportation Manager  
Robin Randels  
Shelley Kerby  
Shauna Walgren (Home Zone Program Coordinator)  
Radcliffe Dacanay, Principal Planner, City of Seattle  
Dani Hurula, Youth Program Manager, King County Metro

**Last Month's Minutes and Action Item Updates**

1. On VA/Mercer Middle School desired slip lane changes, this Action item will be tabled until school construction is further along. Margaret has been unable to get a response from the VA and it is felt that when the project is visible and imminent there would be a better chance.
2. Crossing Guard Communications. We remain about 40 crossing guards short. There are 2 persons being interviewed for Yvonne's replacement. The replacement is expected to be hired by early November. Joe has interviewed 2 people for crossing guards and has 11 on a list to call/interview. Critical problem now is getting someone able to train the recruits. 2 crossing guards lost at Eagle Staff and Genesse Hill.
3. **ACTION:** Last month, **Lee and Mary Ellen with Margaret** as alternate, were appointed as a sub-committee to meet with Richard Best and Melody Berry (SIP review team) to discuss issues

regarding early guidance on site design and last-minute changes. These questions were detailed in August minutes. Richard Best wants to meet but hasn't been able to schedule. **Richard Staudt** will contact Jen Lincoln about scheduling this meeting before Melody forgets the issues.

4. **Action: Noa and Marilyn** will prepare annual calendar by next month. Because Noa will not be attending in November she will send the calendar then for us to review. The discussion and finalization is scheduled for the December meeting
5. **Action:** Hot spot list: **Ashley** was unable to get it. She did learn that a new director has been hired. However, now there is talk of moving the whole parking department to City Hall from SDOT. She will keep trying.

### **September Minutes Approved**

Richard motioned that the September minutes be approved, and Mary Ellen seconded. Minutes were approved with the one correction. On page 4, the intersection mentioned is corrected to be that of 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. and Smith Street near Magnolia Elementary School

### **Home Zone Project: Shauna Walgren**

A home zone involves the entire neighborhood working together to prioritize improvements that calm traffic, improve pedestrian mobility, and improve neighborhood livability.

Shauna begins by building a steering committee engaging as much support as possible. The first Home Zones were South Park, Georgetown, and Highland Park. They had a budget of \$1,000,000 for the first three demo schools but now the budget is \$200,000 per school. In progress now are Aurora/Licton Urban Village, Olympic Hills/Lake City, New Holly/Othello, and Rainier View neighborhoods. These neighborhoods manage to attract outside funds, grants and donations to complete the projects with the impetus of the Home Zone steering committee.

Some improvements include alternative walkways with curb stops to help pedestrians feel and be safer. Dedicated Pedestrian space is a new concept here. These walkways are not a permanent solution but if trees are planted, they are in what is planned as their permanent location. Real sidewalks may come when there is funding. There was a question about objections because of lost parking. Pushback on this front is expected but a block is only 'improved' if 60 % of the residents agree. SDOT identifies more blocks than they have budget for so that they can move forward with blocks that have 60% support. They have had no problem getting 100% to answer surveys on a block-by-block basis. There are hybrid options with some homes having pedestrian walk space and greenspace and some home left with unimproved parking. <https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/home-zone-program> is the website for more information.

So far there have not been conflicts between home-owners wanting to keep as much parking as possible and school communities wanting safer streets, however Shauna is expecting this may come up in projects slated for 2023.

### **Crossing Guard Report – Joe Hebert and Sara Colling**

See Action Items for initial report. Joe is interviewing for Yvonne's position to fill in November. Joe interviewed 2 crossing guards, 1 is good for next training, 1 waiting on fingerprint. Lost guards at Eaglestaff & Genesee Hill. Joe has 10 folks to interview. There's no way to do training right now. Yvonne might be willing to come do some training.

Marni Campbell set it up so that applicants have the option to have the fingerprinting fee covered if it's a barrier, but it's not covered unless applicants ask. They cannot currently fully waive this because it is not in the operating budget, but this is definitely progress.

**Seattle Transportation Plan Update: Radcliffe Decaney, Principal Planner City of Seattle**

He reviewed where they are in the second phase of getting public input for the plan which should be completed by Spring 2023.

<https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/seattle-transportation-plan>

See the above website for the information and also options for public input.

**City Budget Report and SDOT update: Diane Walsh**

There is 8.3 million in the budget for school safety including Vision Zero, Aurora improvements, curb bulbs, flashing lights, sidewalk, improvements etc. All monies from the speed cameras go to school safety. Joe asks could school camera money be used for crossing guards? Joe says he heard concern that stop paddle program may not be continuing. Marni Campbell has been asking if stop paddle tickets might go away. King County sheriff's office is saying that the ticket volume has gone down, which means they question whether it's worth their time to review the video.

**Action:** Sara will ask for a meeting with the Sheriff's office to talk about speed camera tickets and ask Gary to join.

**Sara Colling: SPS Update**

In the recent Walk-to-School Day at least 10 schools participated including Dunlap Elementary, Wing Luke Elementary, and Emerson Elementary. A press conference was held at Dunlap Elementary where the mayor and SPS Superintendent attended. Mary Ellen also attended and able to remind the Mayor Harrell and the School Board member of the departures issue.

Sara is working with Denny Middle School to do Ruby Bridges walk to school on Nov 14.

**Metro Report: Robbie Frankel: Dani Hurula :**

Ridership generally: hard to get idea if it's more or less than previous years because of pandemic disruption. Ridership generally is

10,000 trips per day on youth passenger cards.

Metro is having reports on overcrowding, but not as many as previous years because ridership is still below 2019 levels. Metro is getting reports of 'pass ups' but not as many as typical. They are working on a no-cut list to protect school specific routes from cuts due to staff issues.

Metro is doing a point in time count this fall to get a baseline on where they are where they will identify school heavy routes and count how many are boarding without cards. They are getting reports of students still paying with cash.

Sara pointed out that you could use different schedule on Wed vs. other to figure out the difference in counts, in-service days. Joe Hebert had requested an estimate of school riders on Metro buses. Robbie said it would be easier to look for a specific school than system-wide.

**Committee ByLaws: Diane Walsh and Noa Guter:**

They have prepared a preliminary copy of the bylaws. Diane will send each of us a copy to review for next meeting as there wasn't enough time left at this meeting. She is trying to codify and put in writing how we currently operate plus tightening up the process. One suggestion was to have the five volunteers be the executive committee. **Action: The entire committee** should review the bylaws in preparation to complete the process next meeting.

**Future Topics:**

- Committee bylaws (continued)
- Bus Stop Paddle Funds through pandemic – 'How much?'
- New SDOT Director Greg Spotts (December)
- Regular report from Sara Colling
- Check in with Gary Davenport (SPD liaison) regarding hot spots list getting started again

**Next Meeting date: November 18<sup>th</sup> Primarily Online Meeting**

**Next in-person meeting will tentatively be on December 16<sup>th</sup>.** Location to be decided as sound system at John Stanford meeting rooms is not adequate for large meetings to also use Webex.

**Action: Richard and Diane** will coordinate to select another room for the in-person meeting location and hopefully find a set-up that has better sound quality for hybrid meetings.