

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee
Meeting held at City Hall, 600 4th Ave, Room 370
And Online
February 17, 2023

SSTSC Attendees

- X Richard Staudt (SPS representative)
- 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)
- X Robbie Frankel (Metro Representative)
- X Noa Guter (Chair, parent volunteer)
- X Gary Davenport, SPD Liaison
- X Yvonne Carpenter, SPS field staff supervisor, crossing guard supervisor
- X Diane Walsh, SDOT Representative

Other attendees

Peter Mumford
Luke Distelhorst
Jessica Vu
Corey Holder
Marni Campbell (Executive Director of Operations, SPS)
Steven Richard (Transportation Director, SPS)

Last Month's Minutes and Action Item Update:

1. Equity Metric: **Action: Mary Ellen, Marni Campbell, Steven Richard, and Vivian Song Moritz** will meet to discuss inclusion of the Racial Equity metric in the transportation standards.
2. Meeting with VA: **Action: Sara and Margaret** will continue to reach out to the VA to get agreements on safety improvements for the slip entry/school crossing area at the entrance to the VA.
3. **Action: Mary Ellen, Marni and Lee** will be meeting with the SIP committee/Capital Projects team to iron out coordination issues in time to report to the next meeting.
4. Ashley Rhead reported that Parking Enforcement is understaffed at SPD. Phone 206-386-9012 if a problem is urgent, otherwise preplan routine issues. An example of preplanning would be a police drive-by at certain school on Tuesday's at 3:15PM. Gary reported that the Speed Van is not at their facility.
5. Currently stop paddle tickets are not being issued. Marni Campbell is currently negotiating with the Deputy Mayor about this. Margaret researched and discovered that there is no restriction from the state about how many paddle cameras can be installed. There will be a national annual Count Day for bus drivers to see how many car drivers pass unsafely. The Stop Paddle installation should be safety driven,

not money driven. Therefore, if the count reveals cars not stopping is again a problem, we should amp up our advocacy for stop paddles and stop paddle enforcement.

6. **Action: Diane** will bring Name Tags for the next in person meeting in March.

7. Diane said there is no crew capacity for placing speed trailers right now. **Action: Diane** will get the group involved with speed trailers/cameras etc. to bring us a short presentation in April about Vision Zero and the Seattle Transportation Plan.

8. There will be no need for crossing guards during summer school. There will be five locations for summer school and plans are still being finalized.

Margaret motioned that the January minutes be approved as amended, and Mary Ellen seconded. Minutes were approved.

King County Metro Lynnwood Link Connection Mobility Project:

Luke Distelhorst, Peter Mumford, Jessica Vu, and Corey Holder were presenters.

The purpose of the project is to coordinate and optimize the network with the new Link Light Rail including coordinating with Sound Transit. Phase 2 will finish on March 10th, outlining Service Concepts after much community involvement. Phase 3 is expected to finish this summer much ahead of schedule. Phase 3 will be an almost final Service Proposal which will again be reviewed before being approved by the King County Council.

Main concepts are:

- Reduce peak service only.
- More east-west service.
- Invest in high demand areas.
- More non-peak time (nights and weekends) service.
- Improve frequency.
- Bus to link connections for transfers.

School Lens concepts:

- Working to get bus routes aligned with bell times: (There will be only two school schedules, not three, next year.)
- Question re crossing East-West near Eckstein: There is neither good walking conditions nor bus routes for middle school crossing the I-5 freeway. They are aware of this but there is a funds/ Capital Consideration problem.
- What does Capital consideration mean in this context? Usually, the problem is a place for the bus to turn around at the end of the route, or an adequate place for the driver to stop and take a break. Also, considerations may include building bus islands or removing parking.
- There are active conversations ongoing about problems in the Greenwood area.

To look up the planning go to <https://kingcounty.gov/metro/lynnwoodlink>

Annual Calendar Update: Noa Guter

It was decided that the calendar will be a working document. Changes/additions suggested were:

- Schedule a walking tour as soon as possible.
- How do we increase participation in Hands Up Tally. Discussion of past attempts, mostly failures, ensued. A new positive idea was to get PE teachers to lead the tally and give either the PE teachers and/or the school prizes.
- **Action: Richard Staudt** will get a list of buildings in construction or especially in the planning stages that need scheduling for review.
- **Action: Noa** June needs to be added to calendar with planned retreat.

List of Subcommittee's:

There is currently no list of subcommittees. Subcommittees have been appointed as needed for specific projects and discontinued when that project was completed. Current subcommittees are:

1. Equity Metric: Mary Ellen, Marni, Steven Richard, and Vivian Song Moritz (if available).
2. SDOT/SIF coordination: Mary Ellen, Marni and Lee
3. Intersection Scoring: Mary Ellen, Marni, Steven Richard, and Matt Campbell.
4. Walk Boundaries: Richard, Yvonne, Diane, Sara Colling, Marni, Mary Ellen, Margaret,

Richard reported that he will be retiring in a year, therefore he was not sure he should be on the Walk Boundary Committee because it might last longer than he would be here. **Action: Richard** will check with Paula to explore the possibility of holding the Walk Boundary Committee remotely.

Crossing Guard Update:

Yvonne Carpenter: Crossing Guard Report: One position was lost at Salmon Bay and one at John Rogers/John Adams. A guard is moving from Loyal Heights to Madrona 32nd & E. Union. There is a new guard at Kenyon and Bacon.

If school staff were to perform crossing guard duties, they will need training but certified staff do not. Hiring kids under 18 is done occasionally only if they are monitored by an adult.

There is a problem maintaining a crossing guard at Salmon Bay. The last guard quit because of fear due to 'wild' driving behavior. Suggestions: Have they developed a circulation plan and communicated it to the families. They could refresh an old plan. Ashley's children go to that school, and it seems safe to her. **Action: Sara** will reach out to the school.

SPS Update

Sara Colling reported that they had a Winter Walk, Bike and Bus at Wing Luke Elementary on Valentine's Day. Heart shaped reflectors were given out. They had a group walk to school which may develop into a walking school bus.

South Seattle Safety Issues

Margaret had tried to get someone from the area to come speak to the committee. There are three schools that are very near to the intersection of Rainier and Henderson. Recently, there was a hit and run with a car turning left and hitting a family of four who were legally crossing in the crosswalk. Tammy

Morales has expressed an interest in this accident and this area. Gary said police respond to this intersection as called. The intersection of Rainier and Graham has a score on the Rubrik of 23 and is eligible for a crossing guard.

Snow Routes

The transportation for snow routes has been chaos according to parent reports. **Action: Marni and Steve find out how snow routes have been doing this year.**

Future Topics:

- **Discuss Freeway problem exits with Greg Spotts**
- **Regular Report from Sara Colling**

Next Meeting: March 17th Primarily in Person at City Hall