

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee

Meeting held online

April 14, 2022, Minutes

SSTSC Attendees

- Richard Staudt (SPS)
- X Lee Bruch
 - X Mary Ellen Russell, Chair (parent volunteer)
 - X Margaret McCauley (pedestrian safety advocate)
 - X Marilyn Firman (citizen-at-large)
 - X Yvonne Carpenter (SPS transportation crossing guard manager)
 - X Hunter Maltais (SPS Transportation Manager (long term FMLA leave))
 - X Robin Schwartz
 - X Robbie Frankel (Metro Representative)
 - X Ashley Rhead (SDOT host)
 - X Sara Colling (Safe Routes to School Coordinator)

Other attendees

Brian Dougherty: SDOT manager
Mathew Campbell: SDOT Intern
Mai Ketcherside: Concerned Parent
Radliffe Decaney: SDOT Principal Planner
Jonathan Lewis: SDOT Policy and Planner co-lead
Tod McBryan (Traffic Engineer for Mercer MS, John Rogers ES, Alki ES) Heffron Associates
Shannon Payton (John Rogers Elementary Design Team) DLR Group
Mike J.
Amanda Fulford (Capital Projects, John Rogers Elementary) SPS
Brian Fabella (Capital Projects, Alki Elementary School) SPS
Becky Hutchinson (Alki Elementary Design Team, Architect) Mahlum
Ariel Mieling (John Rogers Elementary School Design Team, Architect) DLR Group
Robin Thaler (Alki Design Team, Civil Engineer) Mayfly Engineering
Bethany Steadman (Alki Design Team, Civil Engineer) AHBL
David Mount (Alki Design Team, Architect) Mahlum
Laura Poulin (Alki Design Team, Architect) Mahlum
Jennifer Munde (John Rogers Elementary School Design Team, Landscape Architect) Osborn Consulting
Liz Browning (Alki Design Team, Landscape Architect) Osborn Consulting

Last Month's Minutes:

Review of Minutes and Action Item Updates:

1. Crossing Guard Map. Ashley and Brian completed map and sent it to us. Now if we update it monthly, we will know where crossing guards are and where they are still needed.

2. Ashley checked on the revised all-way-stop policy which is being developed specifically for schools. They are planning a more streamlined process and are looking at lots of locations. **Action: Ashley** will keep us updated as all-way-stop policy is updated.
3. 14th and Henderson: **ACTION:** Brian sent the data verifying need to Robin. **Robin** will recontact David Shaw.
4. Yvonne posted flyers at Loyal Heights.
5. Margaret completed letter supporting WSDOT To USDOT and it was sent. Margaret has completed letter to Mayor and Deputy Mayor requesting a police member for our committee. **Action: Ashley** will send WSDOT letter.
6. **Action: Robbie** will get Metro's opinion on whether buses can turn out of the VA hospital without using the slip lane. We need this information before we contact the VA.
7. Ashley reported the intersections by Denny International Middle School (25th and 27th and Thistle) qualified for The Reconnect Seattle Fund which is the highest priority funding. This project is moving forward but does not have a timeline yet. **Action: Ashley** will keep us updated on the timeline for crosswalks at Denny Middle.

Minutes Approved: Margaret moved, and Robin seconded. All were in favor.

Safe Routes to School Coordinator: Sara Colling was introduced. She comes from 6 years at SDOT and has a Master's in Public Health from UW.

SPS Transportation Coordinator: Hunter Maltais is on prolonged FMLA leave and will not be returning. The position is currently vacant.

Crossing Guard Update:
Yvonne reported that no crossing guards were hired or lost this month.

Seattle Transportation Plan: Radcliffe Decaney and Jonathan Lewis presented the plan for a coordinated Transportation Plan for Seattle.

Currently SDOT owns 27% of the land in Seattle as ROW. This compares with about 33% in most comparable cities. There are 125 bridges 3,900 lane miles of road, 190,000 signs, 41,000 street trees, traffic signals, stairs and so forth to maintain or improve.

They have a people first vision in this new plan emphasizing inclusivity, climate, and emerging modes. Covid introduced the notion of people streets which have morphed into school streets in some places. There are new mobility factors like E-bikes and E-scooters. They are being intentional about where cars should go ... and where they shouldn't. They will try to align their comprehensive plan with Seattle's Comprehensive Plan.

There will be a joint workshop to which we will be invited in May or June. The plan will go through three review stages until it is presented to the Council in late summer 2023.

Sara asked whether workshops could be held in schools on this to get student input. Robbie commented that from Metro's perspective one big advantage of STP is to break down silos between modes. Metro has *Metro Connects* effort to plan for future, wants to better coordinate this.

Contact information at STP@ Seattle.gov.

John Rogers Elementary School

Ariel Mieling, Amanda Fulford, Jennifer Munde and others presented the tentative design. The project is scheduled to begin in Summer 2023 and be ready for school in Fall 2025. The school draw territory is from 135th NE to 95th NE and from Lake City Way to Lake Washington. There is busing from the northern part which also has more marginalized children. The grounds are along Thornton Creek on one side and have a large area of liquefaction and steep slopes in places. It is a long site with a huge grade change. Site constraints include liquefaction zone, sewer easements, steep slopes.

There will only be about 20 parking spaces on the west end up hill from the school for teachers. There is a drive up turn around area for parents to drop off children. Also, a 10' to 12' wide dual use sidewalk is planned for both walkers and bikers. There is an unofficial and overgrown walk-in area off 109th which will be improved as another walking entrance. There is another access for the preschool.

The SSTSC generally approved the design. The only concern raised was about the narrow neck of the parking area which needed to be crossed by the walkers and bikers. It may be possible to change the sidewalk to the other side of the entry way, but this is a steep slope with trees that should be kept so it may not.

Brian says that it would be possible to move crosswalk on NE 110th St in order to flip ped & car access to teacher parking lot and reduce conflicts.

Alki Elementary School:

Becky Hutchinson, principal architect, and David Mount, Laura Poulin, Robin Thaler, Bethany Steadman, and Liz Browning were the team presented. Mary Ellen, Margaret, Ashley, and Marilyn had been consulted earlier in the month with a preliminary discussion of the planning for this incredibly difficult site.

Alki Elementary School has the smallest site in the entire Seattle school district. It has a road on one side only, 59th St. Its gym is connected to a community center which is owned by Seattle Parks and Recreation. The community center now houses a day-care/pre-school and has a concrete area. This is now also being used by the school for a playground as is part of Whale Tail Park. The design team is trying to work collaboratively with Parks Department to formalize sharing the concrete area and the park just beyond.

Parks boulevard is immediately adjacent to the school. Parks community center is sitting partially on school site. Community center & gym are being retained. Classrooms & cafeteria are being replaced.

Capacity will increase from 300 to 500. Community Center has recently transitioned to just being a child-care center. Traffic analysis shows community center and school traffic really can't be distinguished.

The current plan is to have the concrete area be a "Front Porch" for community gatherings as well as school activities. The front entry will be moved closer to the corner by Stevens St. to encourage walkers to come directly from the park and Stevens Street. When buses park on Stevens Street it is only a one-way road, so car traffic is discouraged. 10 to 12 % of the students come in now from 58th which dead ends at the end of the park. The plan is to improve access there. The service yard will be in the same location. The ground floor will be high value space. The entrance for early learners will be at the back of the school and will allow temporary parking.

There was a question as to why there is usually a special entrance for early learners. The answer is that their adults usually walk them in.

Future Topics

Jennie had urged us to get by-laws. Ashley said she did have some preliminary by-laws left by Jennie but hadn't had time to peruse them. When they hire a new SDOT representative for us Ashley will delegate looking at preliminary by-laws to them.

Transit Fares will be free to all under 18 starting next year. It would be wonderful if bus routes could be coordinated so routes would end right at schools. Also, could buses come from link rail to schools at drop off and pick up times. This might help the school bus problem.

- Committee bylaws (Maybe June with new SDOT representative)
- Zero Youth Fare Initiative (Jeanne Suleiman, June 9:00 – 9:15)
- Priority schools for walking bus support: Bailey Gatzert, Robert Eaglestaff, others?
- Seattle's climate change planning for transportation
- Bus Stop Paddle Funds through Pandemic
- SRTS Action Plan (May)
- Route 48 Transit Plus Multimodal Corridor project (TPMC) - May 9:30
- SDOT Chief Equity Officer Emery, (June 17th 8:30-8:50)

Next Meeting date May 20th.