

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee

Meeting held online

August 14, 2020 Minutes

STSC Attendees

- ✓ Richard Staudt (SPS)
- ✓ Mary Ellen Russell, Chair (parent volunteer)
- ✓ Margaret McCauley (pedestrian safety advocate)
 - Kevin O'Neill (SPD)
 - Jennie Meulenberg (SDOT, corridors and Ped transportation planner)
- ✓ Marilyn Firman (citizen-at-large)
- ✓ Lee Bruch (citizen-at-large)
- ✓ Yvonne Carpenter (SPS transportation crossing guard manager)
- ✓ Charlie Simpson (bicycle advocate)
 - Danny Bell
 - Dani Hurula, KC Metro

Other Presenters/Public

Polly Membrino, SDOT (standing in for Jennie Meulenberg)
Hunter Maltais,
Jeanne Suleiman, member of public and employee at KC Metro

Public Comment

No public comment.

Hunter Introduction

He is very excited to be joining SPS. He is wrapping up his second week on the job. We want to build a strong relationship with him.

Last Month's Minutes

SDOT is transitioning to WebX for the next meeting.

SDOT, including Jennie and Polly, are coordinating the Stay Healthy Streets planning with SPS to ensure that bus routes are considered but school will be online indefinitely so not much has been pushed forward.

No update for now on the West Seattle Bridge Closure & Walking Routes.

The letter advocating for online meetings to continue after meetings go back in person has not gone out yet.

ACTION_ After the STSC's approval, Margaret agreed to sign the letter on behalf of the committee in support of online meetings.

The Policy and Operations Advisory Group (POAG) is experimental and is not necessarily going to be on-going. POAG has a pretty set agenda for the year. Meetings are the 4th Thursday of the month. There are 6 total sessions. Various STSC members expressed interest in joining meetings.

ACTION_ Jennie / Polly will send out meeting invites so that STSC members can join.

SDOT can install crosswalks and other improvements farther than just immediately adjacent from a school if it is approved through the street improvement permit. SPS can have the budget for these improvements if they are permitted from the beginning.

ACTION_ Mary Ellen will follow up with Jennie about getting things into the sip that are not required by code. We want to get a commitment from SDOT to allow SPS to include non-required items in the SIP that can be permitted as budget becomes available but won't be mandatory. This will help get the money lined up and allocate funding for these projects faster.

According to Lee, they did increase the amount of bike parking at Kimball including long-term bike parking. The Department of Neighborhoods agreed that the long-term parking needs to include a shelter. The Northgate recommendation has not yet been drawn from the DON. We are awaiting the results for Northgate.

Viewlands has gone to the DON for their departure recommendations. None of the STSC's original recommendations for Viewlands made it into what was proposed. Some significant circulation changes were, however, made including having parent drop-off on 3rd.

ACTION_ The DON is still accepting comments on Viewlands until September 2nd. Action. STSC will need to coordinate via email to submit comments.

Remote learning will begin on September 2nd.

Last month's minutes approved.

Next Meeting:

September 11th. Meeting will be via WebX

SDOT update: school lunch site beacons

Richard found out they will add 15 school lunch sites, but he does not know where those will be. Hunter said there will be a total of 40 school lunch sites. Richard says the bus distribution of meals will be scaled back to 8 – 10 routes. There is going to be an hour window for meal pickup, but the exact timing is still unknown until next week.

Once we figure out the final locations, Polly is going to figure out which locations have and/or need beacons. Polly will get in touch with someone at SPS named Devin.

Mary Ellen suggests to get an SDOT blog post update after we find out where the school lunch sites are located to get out the word regarding the locations and the beacons. Polly agreed this is a good idea.

Polly asked about whether we need to shift crossing guards in order to keep them working. They could be reassigned to the lunch sites and/or to complete walk audits. This is a recommendation from the National SRTS Partnership. Yvonne said there is no current discussion about this shift.

Crossing guards will be stationed at the 10 school locations, which are the special education programs. The 10 locations still need to be decided. Polly wants to know if these potential locations have beacons and whether or not there will be consistent pick up and drop off times.

ACTION_ Richard will let the STSC and Polly know when these 10 locations are decided as well as the 15 school lunch sites.

Student Heat Maps

ACTION_ Hunter is going to see if SPS has someone who can enter this data into GIS. Look for update from Hunter.

Van Asselt Circulation Plan

Presenters: Charlie Palmer (AHBL), Caroline Lemay (Besetti Architects), Todd McBryan (parking), Cheri Hendricks, Ethan Bernau

The project will expand capacity of the school to accommodate up to 1,000 new students. Because this is a temporary site, there will be significantly more bussing and driving. Richard says that SPS should review if the kids need bussing because many students may be well within the walk zone for this new location. The only exception that would require students to bus to the interim location is if there is not a sufficiently safe walk zone.

There will be a temporary addition at the south end of the site. The existing bus drop-off on Beacon will be retained. The parking lot will be expanded in the northwest portion of the site.

Drop-off and driveway location: The existing driveway is preferred, but they do not have guaranteed access to the ROW from the adjacent church. They, therefore, are proposing a driveway to the left of the existing driveway at the southeast corner of the site entering from Beacon. The idea is to turn the angled parking in the median on Beacon into a queuing location for parents to drop-off kids and the other lane within the median is a passing lane. This parking in the median would be allowed after school hours. 67 total parking spots are currently

required from SDCI. Mary Ellen encourages them to look into how many parking spots are utilized and needed. They already get a 50% code reduction in the parking requirement because they are on Beacon. The code would normally require 134 parking spaces. SDOT wants to retain the angled parking in the median, but SDOT might allow temporary drop-off spots during school hours. SDOT has expressed that they only want one crosswalk.

If the plan for the median does not work, the back-up option for parent drop-off would be the south site entry. Their preference is to create a student plaza in the southeast area of the site.

Concerns/Questions from STSC: A concern is that students will cross Beacon from the median where there are no crosswalks. Most of the students will enter on the south end, but some may enter in the entrance closer to the north. The committee is okay with this approach to remove the angled parking and change it to a queuing lane as long as they work with SDOT to ensure safe crossings.

There is concern with the options regarding the conflict between the driveways and the crosswalk.

Special Education Bus Drop Off: We need to figure out how many students are west of MLK and how many buses that might reduce. All of the students at AKI would get bussing, but the STSC is questioning why because of how close the students are to this new temporary/interim facility. We need to review this to confirm.

Bike Path and Storage: a bike path is proposed to the back of the facility leading to covered bike storage with room for 142 bikes. The committee likes this plan overall.

The committee is in agreement with the goal to eliminate the south drop-off.

Crossing Guard Update

Yvonne says there is nothing to do right now, except for maybe at the 10 locations for Special Education programs and the food service sites. 6 people are waiting to be interviewed and trained but there is no job to go to.

Future Topics:

- Walk Boundary Subcommittee
- Seattle's Climate Change Planning for Transportation (when in-person meetings resume)
- Northgate contractor circulation (September)
- Mode choice survey schedule (when in-person school is starting)
- Viewlands Elementary School (September)
- Draft Circulation Design Guidance Document (October)
- Annual calendar lookahead (new standing item)

