



Kristi Rennebohm Franz,
Chair
Adam Bartz, Vice-Chair
Merlin Rainwater, Vice-Chair
Don Brubeck, Secretary

Jeff Aken
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Leah Curtiss
Steve Kennedy
Riley Kimball
Lara Normand
Phyllis Porter
Michael Wong

October 9, 2015

To: Mayor Ed Murray
City Council President Tim Burgess
City Council Transportation Committee Chair Tom Rasmussen and Members
Jean Godden and Mike O'Brien
SDOT Director Scott Kubly

Re: **Cascade-Uptown Neighborhood**

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board endorses the recommendations assembled by Seattle Neighborhood Greenways and their rider coalition for the new Cascade-Uptown neighborhood.

This transformation of Lower Queen Anne, South Lake Union, and northwest Belltown represents an opportunity to design these newly connected neighborhoods to meet the Bicycle Master Plan goals for Safety, Connectivity, Ridership, Equity and Livability. The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board supports Seattle Neighborhood Greenways' top four recommendations and seven supporting recommendations for achieving these goals, summarized here:

1. Better connecting and integrating Seattle Center with the texture of the city with extended routes along, to, and through it;
2. Creating new connectivity where Highway 99 was once an impediment;
3. Taking steps to spread these safety and design standards to other portions of the nearby neighborhoods.

The new vision of Uptown utilizes Seattle Center as a hub, and as such, the recommendations emphasize vital upgrades to the network connected thereto. Upgrades to Roy Street's bike lane; a safety upgrade to 5th Avenue that connects to an extension of the Mercer Green Carpet; and facilities on Broad Street will make this destination and neighborhood axis much safer to navigate for people of all ages and abilities riding bicycles for all purposes to and from the area, including tourists. Greenway routes along Thomas Street to the east to connect to South Lake Union and to the west to join the Thomas Street Overpass will increase ridership into the neighborhood by safer means. Ultimately, too, the recommended multiuse paths throughout Seattle Center will make people riding bicycles, including visitors, safer and more comfortable in this city destination for residents and tourists alike.

With Highway 99 underground, connectivity options exist where they were once stymied by the highway. The aforementioned Thomas Street greenway, a bike lane

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

- City Council
Resolution 25534



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along Harrison Street, and a right-sizing of 7th Avenue will all enable bike riders to get around the neighborhood in new ways.

In addition, the Bicycle Advisory Board would like to emphasize the importance of safer facilities along Valley Street.

Valley Street is a major channel for bike traffic towards the University of Washington and many large health and biotechnology companies, and bike riders should be protected all the way to work and school.

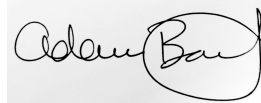
Lastly, the Board endorses the modal balancing done in nearby areas. A slow zone west of Seattle Center protects riders there as much as in areas receiving more attention with new construction, an important point not just for safety but also for equity. A car-free Terry Avenue will help create a town space for the streetcar riders and pedestrians to enjoy the many restaurants and shops nearby.

This project is an example of Seattle's investment in creating livable neighborhoods, and the city should do everything it can to follow the Cascade-Uptown recommendations for making the new area safe, connected, and equitable for all travelers.

Sincerely,



Kristi Rennebohm-Franz
Chair



Adam Bartz
Vice Chair



Merlin Rainwater
Vice Chair



Don Brubeck
Secretary

c: Councilmember Sally Bagshaw
Andrew Glass-Hastings
Kristen Simpson
Dongho Chang
Gordon Padelford

Lyle Bicknell
Anthony Auriemma
Nicole Freedman
Cathy Tuttle

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