



## Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

*Stewards of the  
Pedestrian Master Plan*

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To: Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and the Seattle City Council,

Recently, Mayor Durkan and the Seattle City Council announced their intention to seek legislative approval to expand the use of automated traffic enforcement to include ticketing vehicles that block crosswalks, bike lanes, bus lanes, and intersections. The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB) supports this effort.

Automated enforcement is currently restricted to speed limit enforcement cameras near 14 schools as well as red light cameras throughout the city, but drivers routinely block crosswalks and lanes for bikes, buses, cars, and freight. This creates dangerous conditions for people walking or riding a bike, who must either wait for the path to clear or risk moving into a travel lane in order to pass. Blocked bus lanes also delay transit riders, negatively impacting service reliability and driving up operations costs.

While the Seattle Police Department conducts occasional spot enforcement, officers cannot be everywhere all the time. In many of our busy urban neighborhoods street space is already at a premium, meaning that a traffic stop to issue a citation is likely to block an already busy road. Manual ticketing is also subject to bias in enforcement.

Should the City implement additional automated enforcement cameras, SPAB has two requests:

1. Revenues generated by the cameras should be dedicated to projects that increase safety for people walking and biking or improve transit reliability.
2. The videos and photos produced by the cameras are handled according to the City of Seattle Surveillance Ordinance 125376 to include an in-depth review of privacy implications, especially relating to equity and community impact.

Automated traffic cameras can provide consistent 24/7 enforcement that is bias free with no impact on the limited right of way, making our streets safer and more efficient for everyone. SPAB supports granting cities the authority to expand the use of these cameras.

Sincerely,

David Seater  
Chair, on behalf of the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

*The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor and all the offices of the city on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning insofar as they relate to the pedestrian safety and access.*

*-City Council Resolution  
28791*