

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: April 3, 2019/ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Chairs: Emily Paine, Amanda Barnett
Recorder: Kashina Groves
Location: Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Minutes Distribution List:

See Attachment A

Members Present:

	Present	Absent
Amanda Barnett		
Rich Brown		
Andrew Dannenberg		
Selina Urena		
Charles Hall		
Meredith Hall		
Florence Williams		
Kashina Groves		
Alexander Lew		
Sarah Margeson		
Emily Paine		
Patrick Taylor		

Guests:

[see attached sign-in sheet]

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chair [Emily Paine] called the meeting to order at [6:00]

INTRODUCTIONS

Discussion with Deputy Mayor Shefali Ranganathan and SDOT Director Sam Zimbabwe Regarding Seattle Bicycle Master Plan 2019 Implementation Plan DRAFT

All statements are paraphrased.

(Questions from SBAB members in *italics*)

DM Shefali Ranganathan (SR):

- oversees SDOT, previously worked at TCC
- last year, Mayor asked for Move Seattle Levy Reset as projects were over budget
- Part of Reset.
- Direction from Mayor regarding BMP: Given that we are resource constrained, how can we prioritize projects that connect to the most hubs. How can we complete networks? Not just focusing on mileage which is not the best metric. What are the most impactful projects?

- Snow and Seattle Squeeze delayed progress on implementation plan.
- Mayor and SDOT want to rebuild trust.
- Draft because they want public feedback.
- Mayor wants a safe and connected bike network.
- *Question: Does completing networks mean parts of the city that have been underserved will remain underserved?*
- A: We hope not. Center city bike network still a priority.
- *Q: SBAB members: What is important to us are safe connections to SE and SW Seattle. What SBAB wanted to prioritize last fall was connecting SE and SW Seattle with downtown. The implementation plan seems to invert our intentions. Our highest priority connections are missing from this plan.*
- A: Resources are limited. Mayor is committed to finding best use of resources and building bike network.

SDOT Director Sam Zimbabwe (SZ):

- Goal is to have a fiscally constrained plan.
- Can't add in projects without cutting other projects.
- Clarification that SBAB did not remove projects from the plan.
- There will be open house events toward the end of the month (April) in different parts of the city.
- Will continue to make annual updates to the plan.
- *SBAB: Major projects disappeared from the plan.*
- They are still in the plan, just not the implementation plan.
- *SBAB: The prioritization process was frustrating because we didn't know what the budget was and how much each project costs? That would help us prioritize.*
- *There are too many unknowns.*
- Commitments in the levy were mileage based, not quality connections based. We aren't going to meet the mileage commitments. So how can we make a more meaningful commitment to making connections?
- *SBAB: We didn't use mileage as our metric when we submitted our priority list last fall.*
- BMP is 5 years old. Maybe we need a new one.
- *SBAB: It seems that when projects are politically challenging, the commitments are not kept.*
- *SBAB: What is rebuilding public trust? We trusted the mayor to build 35th and she didn't. Where is the trust?*
- SR: We need to show we can deliver on commitments that are fiscally responsible.
- *SBAB: Bike/ped/transit infrastructure is getting cut but car projects aren't, for example the Lander St overpass is \$140m.*
- SR: Clarifying that transit service has been enhanced. Most of our transportation budget is maintenance.
- *SBAB: There will be opposition. Look at 35th Ave NE. Bike lanes got cancelled when it was already under construction. What is the process for other projects?*
- SZ: This plan is more realistic. It is what do we actually think can be built with the funds we have. Regarding 35th, we need to look at our process for how we address community concerns and move forward with bike projects. What is the failure here? Is it process or is it the loss of what was actually planned? It was not an AAA facility. We will

work to build out a fully connected bike network throughout the city. I don't think 35th sets a precedent for building out the rest of the bike network.

- SR: The mayor agonized over 35th. What it exposed was the silos of our modal plans- Metro plans, etc. We need to look at our community engagement- it was originally called a paving project.
- SBAB: *Look at MHA- that was a case where the mayor had to make a decision between factions that wanted different things. You aren't going to make everyone happy, but I want to see a mayor with a plan for public transportation, for bicycles.*
- SR: We have the transportation benefit district. We have the Move Seattle Levy. That's the plan.
- SZ: Implementation of policies take a long time, going with the MHA analogy.
- SBAB: *We need the will of the government to say this is what is best for our city.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Ostrow, SNG: Express appreciation for people at SDOT. Fantastic, dedicated public servants. It takes 18 months to get bike racks in front of buildings.

Jesse Moore, Duwamish Valley: Positive from imp plan, project #61 which is labeled "Georgetown to South Park" instead of street names. This is a positive precedent. Hub to hub.

Casey Gifford: I'm frustrated. Mayor says she wants to avoid overpromising and underdelivering but last year built far fewer bike projects than promised. You said she wanted to build trust, but the draft plan says SBAB removed plans which were actually our top priorities. That's a lie. Draft plan includes non-AAA facilities. You say you value community feedback but hardly any of the SBAB recommendations are in the plan. The city keeps coming back to money, but the cancelled projects seem to be more about political will. It will be more expensive to redesign 35th later. 39th Ave Greenway are not sufficient. I feel sorry for SDOT staff.

Vicky Clarke, Cascade: There's a lot of disappointment, frustration, anger. We at Cascade want to work with SBAB, SNG to figure this out. Regarding 35th, an engineer signed off on the original plan, deeming it safe. I have trouble with the narrative that if it isn't AAA it isn't worth doing. 39th is not good.

Troy: it feels like we had a reasonable plan. The board suggested projects, can you release a post-mortem explaining how this draft plan came about? Wants to know how projects were chosen and prioritized. My request is to have SDOT explain why they chose to prioritize or delay projects? Would like the same regarding 35th.

Clara Cantor, SNG: SNG is supportive of SBAB and we want to help with data and organizing. Safe 35th organizers participated in mediation with the understanding that the mediation documents would be public.

Oliver, Eastlake: It takes political will to move these projects forward. Need grand scheme.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the March meeting were approved

SBAB UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

35th Ave NE: Patrick will write letter expressing board's disappointment and concern about process moving forward for future plans.

Georgetown mobility study: Website for study will be live soon.

SBAB RESPONSE TO BMP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Amanda: The other modal boards may want to sign on to our letter.

Patrick: What kind of letter should we write? General or specific?

Emily: Yes, it should be specific.

Andy: What kind of info did they use to get the list?

Monica: There wasn't much budget. We looked at budget, ran numbers, there wasn't much room to add more projects.

Amanda: What about the 2018 implementation plan which we never saw?

Monica: it was delayed because of the levy reset. it was a more robust plan than this one.

Who wants to be on subcommittee: Emily, Patrick, Alex, Meredith, Amanda

SBAB members should also be going to the public outreach meetings.

One person from this board should go to the SPAB and STAB board meetings. Charles can go.

Other BMP Implementation review: Alex suggests looking at BMP Implementation appendix for the other priorities and strategies and review how well targets are being met.

PRESENTATIONS

Bike Parking

Time: 7:26

Presenters: Hallie O'Brien, SDOT

Purpose:

Bike Parking now required for new developments, rules updated Spring 2018. Current plan is draft, public comment open through 4/26 (see link to plan on presentation).

Questions, Answers and Comments:

Q: Is there a provision for covered bike parking?

A: Yes

Q: On small projects that also are more affordable, (think walk-ups) there should be a provision for flexibility.

A: We have considered flexibility for buildings without elevators such as rails that go down stairs.

Q: Where are all these new JUMP bike racks we heard about?

A: They are being built! For example at UW.

Q: Requirements for a senior development are the same for a regular affordable housing development, might not be appropriate requirement.

A: Yes, we are aware of this.

Q: Why does it take so long to get a bike rack?

A: Because our crews are busy during the dry months, they can only do bike racks in the off-season. And last winter they were busy doing homeless encampment work. Backlog is about a year right now.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

Jesse Moore: I have seen good outreach from Dept of Neighborhoods.

Ryan Packer: How are these public meetings going to go? There aren't usually a bunch of projects presented at a meeting?

Tom Fucoloro: The board was brought in to prioritize, I felt uncomfortable with that because it should be the job of professionals. Now you're getting blamed for cutting projects. The board should think about what your role is in making cuts. Maybe it's asking too much of the board to make cuts.

Dawn: I don't want to put you back in the position to have to make cuts.

Amanda: We have a public email. The public can email us and we invite the public to email us.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00

ATTACHMENT A

Meeting Minutes Distribution List:

Jenny Durkan, Mayor, City of Seattle
Brian Hawksford, Office of the Mayor
Edie Gilliss, Office of the Mayor
City Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Sustainability & Transportation Committee Chair
City Councilmember Rob Johnson, Sustainability & Transportation Committee Vice-Chair
City Councilmember Kshama Sawant, Sustainability & Transportation Committee Member
City Councilmember Lisa Herbold, Sustainability & Transportation Committee Alternate
Sam Zimbabwe, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
Serena Lehman, SBAB Liaison, SDOT
Dongho Chang, City Traffic Engineer, SDOT
Kevin O'Neill, Planning Manager, SDOT
Sam Woods, Manager, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs, SDOT
Monica DeWald, Strategic Advisor Bicycle Program, SDOT
Sam Assefa, Director, Office of Planning and Development (OPCD)
Griffen Schwiesow, SDOT Communications
Kathy Nyland, Director, Department of Neighborhoods (DoN)
DoN Neighborhood District Coordinators:
 Karen Ko
 Thomas Whittemore
 Yun Pitre
 Laura Jenkins
Meeting Presenters
SBAB Members
Individual Meeting Attendees