**Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee**

**August 21, 2015 Minutes**

**Attendees**

Members: Jen Cole, Ashley Harris, Shannon Koller, Richard Staudt, Cathy Tuttle, Brian Dougherty, Yvonne Carpenter

Public Attendees: None

Other Attendees and Presenters: Stephan Richard, SPS transportation

**Public Comment:** None

**March-June Minutes**

* Minutes approved for March, April, May and June. A discussion of the minutes led to a decision to have “Action Items” called out in future minutes.

**Mode Choice Tally Survey Results**

* SDOT circulated a draft report by the current SRTS intern. The report shows an analysis of the hands-up tallies received by schools last spring and, with as much data as was available, made some 10-year comparisons.
* The report shows that both active commuting and single-family driving have steadily increased as busing has decreased. One report section compared active commute rates with infrastructure near specific schools, giving insight into schools with high walking rates sometimes because of, and sometimes despite, poor conditions.

**Golden Shoe Award**

* Coe elementary recorded the highest rate of overall active commuting. The group discussed runners-up and ways to recognize schools throughout the City and across economic groups.
* We decided to award one Golden Shoe Award per geographic district, meaning that each School Board member will be able to recognize a school in their district. SDOT will distribute the incentives/awards to schools that gathered and submitted at least 75% of their data.

**ACTION**: Ashley to send a list of schools with top numbers in each district to Richard.

**ACTION**: Richard and Cathy to arrange for distribution of certificates via Board Members.

**ACTION**: Jen to locate files for Golden Shoe Award certificates at Feet First and share with new SRTS Director to create this year’s certificates.

**ACTION**: Ashley to send info to Stephan Richard about which schools get the prizes (smrichard@seattleschools.org).

**Cedar Park**

* A concern was brought to Richard’s attention by a neighbor of the Cedar Park Elementary campus in NE Seattle. The neighbor 130th and 37th NE as a concern, citing that cars go through quickly and requesting stop sign controls at the intersection.
* Brian says that there is actually a Neighborhood Street Fund grant project working to make 37th Ave NE a neighborhood greenway. Stop signs will control 130th at 37th Ave NE. The project will be complete in Spring 2016.

**ACTION**: Richard to send contact information to Brian so that Brian can invite this community member to the meetings.

**Crossing Guard Criteria**

* Brian distributed a table with guard locations prioritized according to the formula developed by this committee.
* The ballpark figure for what can be funded by the district is between 70 to 90 guards, though recruitment is also a limiting factor.
* Many of the areas identified as meriting guards will need to be signed as 20 MPH school zones to comply with law. SDOT will begin to do that with the schools ranked as “priority” in the Safe Routes to School Action Plan.

**Mid-Block Crossing at Boren STEM**

* The group discussed the midblock crosswalk on Boren and a request to have an adult guard placed there.
* The location ranks high based on the spreadsheet. SPS will consider moving the Gatewood guard there, but would prefer a new hire if possible.
* There was discussion about this being a different kind of school crossing because it does not link a walking neighborhood to the school, but rather extends the drop-off area by car. Discussing this issue and looking at the spreadsheet criteria, the group agreed that the new heat map data indicating student housing and potential foot traffic should be factored in to the formula.

**ACTION**: Brian to add potential student housing volume to the table to see how that will affect the ranking of the Boren intersection.

**Crossing Guard Updates**

* Yvonne gave an update on retirements, new hires and re-assignments for the new school year. 6 Guards retired over the summer and 2 new guards are being trained next week.
* SPS reassigned guards to high priority locations at West Seattle El and Beacon El.

**School Pool**

* School Pool is a free program offered by King County. It provides an online program similar to rideshare, allowing families to connect with each other for carpools, walking school buses and/or bike trains. It also has a trip tracking system.
* School Pool personnel have met several times with SDOT and are interested in having the program more widely used in Seattle and branded with the SPS and SDOT logos.
* Salmon Bay and a private Seattle school, name unknown, are piloting the program this year. Redmond and Kirkland have the program up and running, and have multiple dedicated people assigned to it at their districts.
* Questions were asked about whether or not this is provided in multiple languages (no), and whether or not student data could be uploaded to populate the system (absolutely not).
* The agreement was made to keep School Pool as an optional tool for schools and one of many suggestions about what to do to address traffic problems at arrival and departure. Co-branding the program with SDOT and SPS logos was acceptable to those present.

**ACTION**: Brian and Richard to follow up with the School Pool technical person.

**Basics of Bicycling (BOB)**

* Shannon updated the committee on BOB activity for 2014-2015. 32 SPS schools and 5,747 students from 3-5th grade received the program last year. 102 students learned to ride for the first time, and the SPS students showed greater gains on before and after tests than students in other participating school districts. Next year, BOB will be in all elementary schools.
* The Mayor wants to have one major press event on September 10th, highlighting all school safety components together. The likely place for this press event will be Sacajawea El.

**Future Topics**

1) Discussion ensued about Metro involvement in this committee, and the need to better define the roles of committee members from both Metro and SPD. The group has appreciated the SPD reports on citations near schools.

**ACTION**: Ashley to reach out to Sandra to ask her to present about Metro policy for serving student riders.

**ACTION**: Ashley to add monthly agenda item from SPD regarding school zone safety and enforcement in general and at grant schools.

2) Concept design for 15th & Columbia near Mercer Middle School

**ACTION**: Brian and Ashley to bring design to next month’s meeting.

3) Stop paddle agreement. Our committee could send a request to get the status of the program, or could send a letter advocating it. It was decided that Peggy McEvoy should speak with Jim Curtin.

**ACTION**: Richard to send this suggestion to Peggy M.

4) The new Feet First SRTS Director was hired this week. Ashley was part of the interviewing team.

**ACTION**: Jen to reach out to Theresa, new SRTS Director at Feet First, and invite her to attend next month’s meeting

5) Discussion about community representation on this committee. A few positions are open. We are looking for greater diversity.

**ACTION**: Ashley to reach out to Rainier Beach community contacts to invite them to nominate someone to this committee.

**10:30am Adjourn**