

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: October 2, 2019 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Chairs: Emily Paine, Patrick Taylor
Recorder: Alex Lew
Location: Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Minutes Distribution List:

See Attachment A

Members Present:

| | Present | Absent |
|-------------------|---------|--------|
| Andrew Dannenberg | ✓ | |
| Selina Urena | | X |
| Meredith Hall | ✓ | |
| Kashina Groves | ✓ | |
| Alexander Lew | ✓ | |
| Emily Paine | ✓ | |
| Patrick Taylor | ✓ | |
| Andrea Lai | ✓ | |
| Ben Estes | ✓ | |
| Gunnar Colleen | ✓ | |

Guests:

Ryan Packer, the Urbanist
Will Knedilks, Washington State Good Roads Associations
Jennifer Breckenridge
Jacob Ward, Toole Design Group

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patrick called the meeting to order at 6:03.

INTRODUCTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Packer: concerned about wayfinding and legibility issues. For example, Bell Street with the diagonal crossings, and the 9th Ave PBL diagonal crossing.

Contra-flow, diagonal crossings are confusing if we want to increase ridership. We are short changing ourselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member buddies: assigned by Kashina for new members to allow them to ask questions about board procedures, etc.

MEETING MINUTES

The July, August, and September meeting minutes were approved.

SBAB UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

Move Seattle Oversight Levy (Patrick):

- Nothing significant happened. Budget update.
- Moving the pots of money around: this was an option of last resort since someone had to lose money.
- Uber/Lyft tax: after 5 years is supposed to switch from streetcar and affordable housing to mass transit and bike/ped.
- If anyone wants to take on the opportunity to go to the Move Seattle Oversight Committee, they are welcome to volunteer.

Uber/Lyft Tax:

- Currently \$0.25 per ride.
- Mayor's proposal: increase to \$0.75.
- First five years: dispute resolution for drivers, streetcar, affordable housing.
- After five years: walking/biking/transit
- Separate legislation: Minimum wage to drivers

SBAB discussion on the Uber/Lyft tax:

- This is an opportunity to change behavior.
- For a response / letter in support, we should think of the goals and framework for the policy as it would be hard for SBAB to recommend specific numbers.
- What is the long term aspect of this as a funding source? Do we want this for long term funding if it is changing behavior? Is this tax a reliable source of funding?
- What are our goals? Is this money something that we want to rely on? These companies will change?
- Patrick: based on updates from the Levy Oversight Committee, SDOT is not bonding against it. Levy decided to make the language flexible should the streetcar not happen.

Actions: Alex will take on writing in support according to the bullet points developed below.

Bullet point version:

- We support it.
- Structured to give to bike programs.
- Positive outcomes: allowing to give up cars.
- Values: help to make people make the choice between transportation options → TDM aspect.
- Urge the council to use the tax to disincentivize unnecessary car trips.
- Maximize revenue ASAP; disproportionate impacts from the Move Seattle Levy.
Projections: make sure that the funding is there.

Kashina to help out with letter.

A letter in support of the tax passes conditionally upon the bullets above [note: letter sent on October 9].

SBAB Happy Hour:

Oct 7: 6:00pm-8:00pm at Optimism Brewery

Emily to send email confirmation.

January Meeting Re-Scheduling:

January meeting falls on January 1, 2020 so we will change it. Serena will send a Doodle poll.

BMP Implementation Plan (Serena):

- SDOT going to do a check up on how the PBLs are performing in terms of maintenance.

Upcoming agenda:

- TNC/Uber-Lyft TNC tax
- Waterfront
- Bikeshare: how things are going
- How SDOT does outreach
- Commute Seattle: trip reduction
- Update on the Key Arena

Other agenda requests:

- Montlake (Andrew)
- Construction impacts (Meredith)
 - SDOT recently updated the policies on what businesses had to do.
- Missing Link (Andrew)

PRESENTATIONS

Bell Street PBL Update

Time: 6:50

Presenters: Megan Hoyt (SDOT)

Purpose: Give an update on bicycle facilities on Bell Street between 2nd Avenue and Denny.

- Bell St: final connection that builds upon all the all-ages and abilities streets in Downtown.
- Analysis for quite some time on the alignments.
- The current design 2-way PBL on the north side of the street: Bell Street would stay as a “green street” between 2nd Ave to 5th Ave.
- From 5th to Denny: concrete median buffer that would vary in width to allow for right turn pockets.
- At 6th and 7th Avenues, there will be protected turns with bike signals.
- Bell Street “park”: SDOT doesn’t operate it, instead it is controlled by the parks department, and technically drivers are not supposed to drive through it (required turns).
- March 2020: KC Metro buses moves away from Bell.
- Between 5th and 2nd, there will be a curb preventing through-traffic. There will be a curb-cut near the bike lane so that bikes can continue down Bell Street.
- Mixed, shared-use street for the rest.
- For car traffic heading southbound on Bell, there will be stop signs at 3rd and 4th and require a right turn.
- Developments happening in the area will paying for the project.

- o An interim facility may happen pending the construction timeline of the developments.

SBAB questions and comments:

- Signal timing? Technically bikes are supposed to go with the car phase instead of the pedestrian phase.
- What side of the street should the cyclist be on? In a shared street situation, it will be confusing on whether bikes can go northbound on Bell Street.
- One-way issues? What is the desired use here?
- Bollards are a solution:
- Legality of going contra-flow: it's not clear that bikes are allowed to go northbound on this street.

NE 43rd St / U-District Station

Time: 7:20

Presenters: Janet Mayer, Christa Dumpys

Purpose: Give an update on NE 43rd Street adjacent to the future U-District Link station.

- Project in the University District from 15th to Brooklyn on 43rd Street
- Pedestrian focused rebuild of NE 43rd with the future LRT station
- High volumes of peds heading from the light rail station.
- One-way westbound transit; sharrow in westbound direction.
- Contraflow protected bike lane in eastbound direction.
- Widened sidewalks
- Natural drainage system.
- Bus to be rerouted along NE 43rd to serve the new light rail station.

SBAB questions and comments:

- What will be the volume of buses given that it is a shared bike and bus lane in the westbound direction:
 - o SDOT: combined 2 min peak frequency
- Fire department issues: Can't move the natural drainage system
- Why not vertical separation and have bike lane be bidirectional at sidewalk level?
 - o SDOT: the community and stakeholder groups wanted shared street because they envisioned pedestrian only in the future, and as such they wanted sidewalk and street the same level. Also considerations for utilities and green infrastructure.
- Why do they want shared street if they are investing trolley-wire? Buses are here to stay.
- How does it connect to Roosevelt RR?
- Kashina to write letter about bidirectional facilities needed: the shared lane in the westbound direction is inadequate given the volume of buses.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

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 Abel Pacheco, 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
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