

## Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Joint Meeting Minutes

### AGENDA:

**Date:** April 7, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Virtual via Cisco Webex  
**Co-chairs:** Patrick Taylor and Sarah Udelhofen  
**Recorder:** Simon Blenski, SDOT staff Liaison

### Minutes Distribution List:

See Attachment A

### Bicycle Advisory Board Members Present:

Members	Present	Absent
	✓	X
Alexander Lew	✓	
Andrea Lai, Secretary	✓	
Andrew Dannenberg	✓	
Benjamin Estes	✓	
Emily Paine	✓	
Jose Nino, Get Engaged Member	✓	
Kashina Groves	✓	
Maimoona Rahim	✓	
Meredith Hall	✓	
Patrick Taylor, Co-Chair	✓	
Sarah Udelhofen, Co-Chair	✓	
Yasir Alfarag	✓	

### City Staff:

- Chris Saleeba, SDOT
- Lizzie Moll, SDOT
- Serena Lehman, SDOT
- Simon Blenski, SDOT
- Summer Jawson, SDOT

### Members of the Public:

- Brie Gyncild, Seattle Central Greenways
- Emily Davis, Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board
- Ethan Campbell, Seattle Central Greenways

### Meeting Call to Order:

- SBAB Co-Chair Patrick Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

### Public Comment:

- Max Baker: Thanks for all the work that you do. I frequently track SBAB's work, but this is my first time making a public comment. My family lives in the Delridge neighborhood in West Seattle and we are very excited for all the Rapid Ride H Line improvements.

However, learned from SDOT that neighborhood greenway improvements parallel to Delridge Way SW will be pushed back one year, in order collect traffic data next year and evaluate options. Many people are working from home and the West Seattle Bridge is closed, but still a lot of dangerous and high-speed driving in our neighborhood. A lot of drivers use the greenway to bypass construction. I wanted to make SBAB aware of this delay and our concerns in the neighborhood.

**Presentations:**

2021 BMP Implementation Plan Update

Presenters: Serena Lehman and Summer Jawson, SDOT

Presentation: See attached

Time: 6:10 p.m.

Discussion and Q&A:

- Patrick: To confirm, the “2021 Projects” list includes projects that will be in construction this year?
  - Serena: Yes, some started last year, but are still in construction.
- Kashina: Can we get a copy of the draft Implementation Plan?
  - Serena: I think we will be able to share it. I will check with the Mayor’s Office.
- Sarah: Are there any projects that we should keep an eye on? Are there any projects that you anticipate a lot of pushback?
  - Serena: Most projects are far enough along and have done outreach, so don’t anticipate pushback. Main issue for these projects is our ability to deliver and build, not outreach.
- Yasir: Do you have any information about what month the projects will be complete?
  - Serena: We do not have that level of detail, but I’m happy to follow up if you have questions about specific projects.
- Meredith: Now that we know what the Levy will accomplish, what is left to implement in the BMP? There are a lot of gaps in southeast Seattle and Rainier Valley that are priorities for us and the community.
  - Serena: We do not have that info, but we are definitely thinking about that as a next step.
- Patrick: Are there any updates about a full update to the BMP?
  - Serena: One of the strategies listed in the Implementation is to update the full BMP. My role is more on implementation of the current plan, but the modal integration work that you’ve recently heard about will inform a full update.
- Meredith: While we’ve got you and Summer here, do you have any response to the public comments about the neighborhood greenway in Delridge?
  - Summer: I’m happy to come back with the team working on this project to provide an update. The diverter at SW Genesee St and 26<sup>th</sup> Ave SW has been put on hold until the Rapid Ride construction is further along and we collect more community feedback. We did recently make some improvements further south, providing an alternative greenway route on 18<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, allowing you to avoid the stairway on 17<sup>th</sup> Ave SW.

## NE 130th St & Shoreline South/148th Stations: Multimodal Access Study

Presenters: Chris Saleeba and Lizzie Moll, SDOT

Presentation: See attached

Time: 6:42pm

### Discussion and Q&A:

- Patrick: It is great to see this work. I think north Seattle is similar to a lot of southeast Seattle, including many communities of color and poor infrastructure, lack of sidewalks, and limited bike facilities.
- Meredith: On that note, what projects were prioritized by vulnerable communities?
  - Lizzie: We partnered with, and funded outreach with Lake City and Little Brook community organizations. We went to many standing community events and gathered input. The community is very interested in advancing these projects and getting them funded.
  - Chris: One that really stands out to me in the northeast area, is a connection through the south end of Jackson Park. Like the 130<sup>th</sup> Street overpass on the west side of the project area, the ravine is the main barrier on the east side. We are talking with Parks about trying to make that connection.

## Helmet Law Update

Presenters: Board discussion led by Alex Lew

Presentation: n/a

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Alex:

- Our work group is balancing two messages: encouraging helmet use, while not wanting helmet use to be enforced by armed police officers. We recognize that that BIPOC communities have had a very different experience with this law than other people.
- I think the King County Board of Health is going to have to contend with the same issue and consider what message it is sending if the law is repealed.
- We are curious about what alternative strategies you can use to encourage helmet use, such as education, helmet fittings, and rebates.
- And what do we beyond this? This is one of many transportation laws, like jaywalking, that disproportionately impact people of color. There is a lot we can work on, but for now we are focused on the helmet law.
- We are curious what other members think about repeal and these questions.

### Discussion and Q&A:

- Patrick: Is there an option where we keep the helmet law on the books, but remove enforcement by armed officers? For example, the Board of Health oversees food inspection laws, but food inspections are not done by police?
  - Alex: We talked with Board of Health staff and it is a murky situation. I don't have a good response.
- Andy: I was involved in the 1990's in the development of many of the helmet laws. Our studies show that education campaigns are not effective and hard to sustain. We found that it is more effective if parents tell their kids that it is the law to wear a helmet. I also think there is an option to have this be a secondary or tertiary reason to pull someone over. This would require that an officer stops someone for some other reason first, like

unsafe riding. I do hear your concerns, but I think secondary enforcement is a better approach. I am not in favor of full repeal.

- Alex: In that situation, I'm worried that if someone reports a suspicious person, then an officer could use helmet use as an excuse to stop them.
- Patrick: Andy, I see the rationale in your strategy, but that approach is similar to loitering laws and people who are homeless. It is another reason to pile on a fine for someone already in a vulnerable situation.
- Meredith: That's exactly my concern. For the fatal collision in Georgetown, the victim gets blamed for the cause of the collision just because they are not wearing a helmet.
- Andy: I thought that from our presentation last month, that citations were going down. Can you confirm?
  - Ethan: Yes, but that data is only for citations, not total stops and warnings. We don't have access to the stop and warnings data. Even with secondary enforcement, that is a gray area and worried that officers will continue to stop people.
- Meredith: Alex, what outcome you are looking for?
  - Alex: The Board of Health will not look at this until later this summer. If SBAB wanted to put together a statement, we would welcome that.
  - Brie: If you want to wait until Seattle Central Greenways finishes our work and writes a draft letter, we could share that for you to consider.
- Meredith: I've also heard head injuries vary by style of bike: upright versus drop down handlebars. If that is the case, then education could be more effective because causal riders tend to ride upright bikes.
- Sarah: I have a question about education not being effective. Considering this law is over 30 years old, could we think about current methods of education? Communication is very different than 30 years ago. For example, Washington Public Health has some really great social media campaigns that are engaging and funny.
  - Andy: Studies show that the biggest factor for helmet use is if your peers wear a helmet.
- Alex: Andy, has there been any research on incentives and subsidies for helmets?
  - Andy: Some examples, but very the research is very limited.
- Meredith: I think we are in a totally different time than 30 years ago. Parents who grew up wearing helmets know the safety benefits and there is that peer pressure now. This law impacts people of color and I think we need to consider that.
  - Ethan: That is a powerful point. One of the more recent studies from Canada found no link between rates of head injuries and communities with helmet laws. The most recent local study from 2016 found that any change in head injury rates from the King County law was very, very small. So, if the law was repealed, we should anticipate very limited change in head injuries.
- Patrick: I'm curious what everyone thinks we should do. Options that I'm thinking are: take no action, discuss more at a future meeting, or wait until the work group drafts recommendations.
  - Kashina: I think waiting for the work group's recommendations would be helpful. Then we will have something specific to react to.
  - Sarah: Yes, and the work group has been thinking about this a lot more than we have.

- Patrick: I like that approach. And just to summarize where I think SBAB is at right now, we think helmets, are good, but armed enforcement of helmet use is bad.

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Board Business:**

- Approval of March meeting minutes
  - Sarah: Motion to approve.
  - Maimoona: Second
  - All: Approve
- Retreat Reminder: 4/14/21, 6-7:30pm
  - Sarah: We will be sending out an agenda with some questions and things to think about ahead of the retreat.
  - Andrea: We are also interested in talking about recent “wins”. Please email me if you have any suggestions for successful project outcomes.
- LOC update
  - Patrick: I did not attend this month, so no updates to share.
- Racial Equity Workgroup update
  - Sarah: I will schedule another meeting. Also, several terms will end in August, so we should think about recruitment and building off past work.
- Announcements
  - Meredith: There is a community ride this Friday in Georgetown. It will raise awareness for better bike infrastructure in southeast Seattle, after a person biking was killed in Georgetown. We will meet at South Seattle College near East Marginal Way and Corson Ave S at 4:00 p.m.

**Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. by Patrick Taylor, SBAB Co-Chair.

**Attachment A:**

Meeting Minutes Distribution List:

- Jenny Durkan, Mayor, City of Seattle
- Brian Hawksford, Office of the Mayor
- Edie Gilliss, Office of the Mayor
- Transportation and Utilities Members
  - City Councilmember Alex Pedersen, Chair
  - City Councilmember Dan Strauss, Vice-Chair
  - City Councilmember Lorena Gonzalez
  - City Councilmember Lisa Herbold
  - City Councilmember Tammy Morales
  - City Councilmember Debra Jaurez
- Sam Zimbabwe, Director, SDOT
- Dongho Chang, City Traffic Engineer, SDOT
- Monica DeWald, Bike Master Plan and Neighborhood Street Fund Manager, SDOT
- Serena Lehman, Senior Transportation Planner, SDOT

- Simon Blenski, SBAB Liaison, SDOT
- Sam Assefa, Director, Office of Planning and Development (OPCD)
- Kathy Nyland, Director, Department of Neighborhoods (DoN)
- Meeting Presenters
- SBAB Members
- Individual Meeting Attendees