

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

AGENDA:

Date: June 2, 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		X
Andrew Dannenberg	✓	
Benjamin Estes		X
Emily Paine		X
Jose Nino, Get Engaged Member	✓	
Kashina Groves	✓	
Maimoona Rahim	✓	
Meredith Hall	✓	
Patrick Taylor, Co-Chair	✓	
Sarah Udelhofen, Co-Chair	✓	
Yasir Alfarag	✓	

City Staff:

- Hallie O'Brien, SDOT
- Simon Blenski, SDOT

Members of the Public:

- Brock Howell, Aurora Reimagined Coalition
- Clara Cantor, Seattle Neighborhood Greenways
- Ethan Campbell, Seattle Central Greenways and Helmet Working Group
- Jacob Ward, Toole Design Group
- Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn: City of Tacoma Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group
- Jody Belsick, Kimley-Horn
- Paul Wirsing, Southeast Seattle
- Tom Lang, Aurora Reimagined Coalition

Meeting Call to Order:

- SBAB Co-Chair Patrick Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Public Comment:

- n/a

Presentations:

Georgetown to South Park Trail

Presenters: Hallie O'Brien, SDOT

Presentation: See attached

Time: 6:08 p.m.

Discussion and Q&A:

- Meredith: I'm curious about driveways and locations where pedestrians and vehicles will need to cross the trail to access businesses. S Bailey St has a lot of people coming and going and it could be good to consider urban design elements.
 - Hallie: Along those areas there is at least six feet of clearance between the trail and buildings so we can look at those design details.
- Alex: I'm very excited for this project, especially now that it is funded. I agree with Meredith that different pavement types could help in the more active areas. I'm wondering about South Park bridge itself. The existing bike lanes are narrow and I often ride on the sidewalk. Will there be any improvements on the bridge?
 - Hallie: The South Park Bridge is owned by King County, but operated by SDOT. However, with the West Seattle Bridge detour impacts, making the bike lanes protected is not feasible at this time. However, this could be a "Phase 2" extension of the project into South Park.
- Alex: There are lot of bus stops along the route. Have you thought about what the design will be at the stops? Island platform? Raised shared space?
 - Hallie: We've started talking with King County Metro. We will determine the bus stop details as we get further in to design. For now, do you have a preference for the bus stop design?
 - Alex: Generally, transit islands like on Dexter Ave are preferred. They clearly designate space between bikes, pedestrians, and people waiting for the bus and provide space for shelters and other amenities.
- Patrick: Are there any project improvements in South Park?
 - Hallie: At this time, these are the extents. However, separate from this project, there is a Seattle Parks project in the gravel lot at the intersection of Dallas Ave S, Reconnect West Seattle Home Zone improvements on residential streets, and the potential for a new signal at Dallas Ave S and 14th Ave S.
- Patrick: Are there any risks for this project?
 - Hallie: Not at this time. Railroad involvement often adds risk and delays, but the alignment along East Marginal Way avoids the tracks on the west side of the street.
- Yasir: Along the Burke Gillman, bikes and cars get separate lights. Can we consider "No turn on red" for this project so bikes get a head start?
 - Hallie: We will consider using leading pedestrian intervals, or LPI's, at the major intersections along the project.
- Meredith: Will there be any tree removal?
 - Hallie: Yes, there will be some tree removal along East Marginal Way and Ellis Ave, but for every tree removed, we are replanting at least two new trees.

- Patrick: Thank you for coming. We would love to have you back at 90% in early fall 2021 to learn about more details about intersections and transit stops.

Aurora Reimagined Coalition

Presenters: Tom Lang and Brock Howell

Presentation: See attached

Time: 6:31 p.m.

Discussion and Q&A:

- Alex: Is it possible to have WSDOT fund the project?
 - Brock: We do not have a cost estimate yet, but there is some Council Member support. There has been a request for SDOT to generate a cost estimate to potentially get City funding for the project.
 - Patrick: Do you have any idea the cost magnitude?
 - Brock: I don't think it will be that much, probably \$50,000-100,000.
- Patrick: One challenge with this request is that SBAB has asked SDOT to direct resources to historically underserved areas. I understand that we are being asked to split the pot versus grow the pot, but that is one concern I have.
 - Brock: Green Lake is a regional park used by all. This is also a fairly low-cost improvement and we are not asking SDOT to divert money from other projects.
- Alex: Where would you put the new curb cuts?
 - Brock: No new curb cuts are needed for this project. According to SDOT's initial plans, J-barriers would extend to the existing on-ramp, which we are proposing to be an extension of the Keep Moving Street.
- Jose: Last month we heard a presentation from the Allison Schwartz with SDOT's Vision Zero group and she talked about the safety issues along Aurora. Have you talked with her?
 - Brock: Currently, we are working with David Burgesser who will be leading the \$2M study.
- Alex: What are your hopes for the study? How can we ensure the scope includes things we want to see changed?
 - Brock: I know the scope includes up to 30% design for some intersections or segments. I think SDOT's goal is to develop the project enough in order to seek additional funding. Our work is focused on creating energy and the political possibility to let SDOT deliver the best improvements.
- Alex: I recommend that you advocate for quick wins so this is not a plan or study that sits on the shelf when it is complete
 - Tom: That is exactly our approach. Completing the Green Lake Loop is an example of that.
- Meredith: Political support will depend on business support. Have you talked with any businesses yet?
 - Tom: We are starting to have conversations with businesses, especially on the north end of the corridor in Licton Springs. We are trying to develop a shared vision for the street and something that we can all support.
- Meredith: Further north in Shoreline there are rain gardens along Aurora. Could that be a way to deliver improvements?

- Brock: Yes, there is some history of adding rain gardens. They have been implemented through a variety of funding sources including with private developments.
- Meredith: While the Green Lake Loop is not in southeast Seattle, this could set a precedent for changes on State routes, which would be a big win.
- Kashina: On that note, even though this project is not located in a historically underserved area, we learned last month that the people getting hit on high-speed corridors like Aurora tend to be people of color.
- Patrick: Would you like an endorsement or standalone letter?
 - Brock: A short standalone letter would be great and very powerful.
- Patrick: Are members supportive of writing a letter?
 - Sarah: Based on what we have heard from last month's Vision Zero presentation, I think this is important to support this project. I'm happy to help write at letter.
 - Maimoona: I can help write the letter. I think this is a key safety issue.
 - Jose: I can help, too.
 - Patrick: All in favor?
 - All: yes

Helmet Law Follow Up

Presenters: Board Discussion

Presentation: See attached letter and FAQ

Time: 7:17 p.m.

Discussion and Q&A:

- Patrick: Since this is a letter that is already written, I think the discussion should be around endorsement versus not endorsing.
- Kashina: I think it is important for SBAB to endorse this letter.
- Jose: I endorse the letter. I think the research and thought that went into this recommendation it is very deep and matches the nuance of the issue.
- Patrick: I agree. The workgroup put a lot of thought into this issue.
- Sarah: This is really impressive research and I support the letter.
- Yasir: I endorse it and want to thank Ethan and Alex for their work. I support any opportunity to reduce interactions between people of color and police.
- Meredith: I support it as well.
- Patrick: All in favor for endorsing the Helmet Workgroup letter?
 - Yes: 8
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1

Public Comment:

- Jennifer Halverson-Kuehn: Hi. I'm the chair for the Bicycle Pedestrian Technical Advisory Group in Tacoma. Your helmet law letter is amazing and love that you not assigning blame in crashes. Like our work in Tacoma, the messaging is key. Council Members in Tacoma initially raised their eyebrow at our proposal. However, we pushed a message of "pro helmet, anti-helmet law". I also think that it is great to have consistent laws across neighboring jurisdictions.

Board Business:

- Approval of May meeting minutes
 - Patrick: Motion to approve.
 - All: Approve
- LOC update from Patrick:
 - One major project update is that the Madison Bus Rapid Transit project is moving forward and includes many bike improvements. Construction will start this fall, but will not be completed until 2024.
- Racial Equity Workgroup update
 - Sarah: We have not met in a while, so no major updates.
 - Maimoona: Aside from recruitment, what else does this group work on?
 - Sarah: We had started to interview past BIPOC members to understand their experiences on the board. We also have bigger, long-term ideas like encouraging the City to provide child care during meetings or compensating board members.
- Appointments and Reappointments
 - Simon: By the end of August, will have three open seats and one Get Engaged seat to fill: Alex, Emily, Ben, and Jose's seats. Andrea and Yasir are ending their first term and will be seeking reappointment. I'm working to understand the appointment process and how to engage the Mayor's Office and City Council this cycle. We want to build off the improvements from last cycle, including improving the application process and spreading the word to a broader audience. I will have more updates at our July meeting.
 - Patrick: Sarah and I participated in 2020 recruitment, but there is not a reason that we need to participate. Definitely want to encourage others to participate.
- Co-Chair Opportunity
 - Patrick: I have been co-chairing SBAB and serving as SBAB's rep on the Levy Oversight Committee. If anyone is interested in those roles, I am happy to step back. I'm also happy to explain more about these two roles. It would be great if it is a newer appointee so there can a smooth transition and some longevity in the new role.
- Announcements
 - Patrick: There is a meeting on Friday, June 4 with SDOT Director, Sam Zimbabwe and the Freight Advisory Board to discuss the West Marginal Way SW project. Meredith, Sarah, and I will be attending on behalf of SBAB. We will report back on the outcome of the meeting.
 - Yasir: In September, I was thinking of planning a bike ride to check out the new Link Light Rail Stations. I can let the group know the details when we get closer.
 - Sarah: I was also thinking of attending one of the Reimagine Aurora Walk Audits. I will post in the Google groups to see if anyone else wants to join me.

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