

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board & Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

*Stewards of the
Pedestrian Master Plan*

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To The Mayor, Council, and SDOT:

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB) and the Seattle Bike Advisory Board (SBAB) enthusiastically support the ongoing effort to pedestrianize Pike Place Market. Our Boards ask that you take action to remove through traffic from Pike Place (between Pike Street and Virginia Street) and turn it into a pedestrian zone while giving vendors access for loading/unloading and maintaining accessibility and emergency access.

Removing through traffic from Pike Place and pedestrianizing the street would provide significant benefits to vendors, residents, and visitors, including:

1. Increasing the amount of usable space (to add more vendor stalls, or provide seating or walking space for visitors to linger in the space comfortably)
2. Reducing pedestrian-car conflicts, creating a more positive and safe visitor experience
3. Reducing air pollution from cars that are idling amongst crowds of people, providing a healthier experience for visitors
4. Reducing noise from cars that are idling, which will create a more comfortable space for visitors
5. Allowing vendors quick access to their loading/unloading spaces throughout the day
6. Connecting people to the waterfront and the incoming 20 acre Waterfront Park ([opening in spring 2024](#))

In 2021, the Northwest Progressive Institute and Seattle Neighborhood Greenways found that 81% of Seattle residents support “allowing shopping streets such as the street next to Pike Place Market to limit vehicle traffic to loading and unloading”. In addition, the Seattle Times Editorial Board and the Stranger are both in support.



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Further, The Seattle Times reported that “In 2011, a one-week analysis during summer — the market’s busy period — found about 3,020 vehicles used the road daily, according to the report by SDOT. For perspective, 50,000 pedestrians could be moving through the area daily during the same period” ([Seattle Times](#)). The vibrant pedestrian experience of Pike Place Market attracts millions of visitors every year. Seattle should double down on the features that make the market unique and attractive by removing through traffic from Pike Place.

Councilmember Lewis called this effort a “big priority for 2022”, and we hope to see his vision achieved this year. SBAB and SPAB ask that Mayor Harrell, Seattle City Council, and SDOT take advantage of this momentum to pedestrianize the market and make it a more attractive destination for residents and tourists alike.

Regards,

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB)
The Seattle Bike Advisory Board (SBAB)