

# Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** April 6, 2016 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
**Chair:** Kristi Rennebohm Franz  
**Recorder:** Merlin Rainwater  
**Location:** Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 4050

## **Minutes Distribution List:**

See Attachment A

## **Members Present:**

Riley Kimball, Jed Bradley, Jeff Aken, Steve Kennedy, Adam Bartz, Don Brubeck, Merlin Rainwater, Kristi Rennebohm Franz, Phyllis Porter

## **Members Absent:**

Michael Wong, Lara Normand,

## **Guests:**

Andy Baker, Daniel Brody (Enviro Issues), Jeffry Conor, Tom Fucoloro (Seattle Bike Blog), Antoine McNamara (Beacon Hill Safe Streets), Natahalin Roberts, Elizabeth de Regt, Zach Sherer (Seattle Transit Advisory Board), Amanda Tse (SDOT), Christina Yantsides (UW and PHSKC-VIP)

## **MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kristi Rennebohm Franz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from March 2 SBAB meeting were approved as written.

Minutes from March 11 specially-called meeting were approved with the addition of "...approved by quorum" to sending letter regarding BMP Implementation plan.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Travis Merrigan from Rainier Valley noted that after months of fighting for better bike infrastructure in the Rainier Valley, anticipated projects have been cancelled or delayed. The single most important missing link is a connection to downtown. There is no existing plan to make this connection. Disappointed with the Bike Master Plan 2016-2020 Implementation Plan.
- Antoine McNamara from Beacon Hill seconded this concern.
- SBAB members stated support for this concern. While interested in PBL on Rainier, very concerned about continued speeding and collisions. SBAB is interested in advising SDOT on improved community outreach.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Yesler Bridge Rehabilitation Project**

*Time:* 6:25

*Presenter:* Amanda Tse, SDOT

*Purpose:* Information and input from SBAB

- Yesler Bridge was built in 1910, one of the first steel bridges in Seattle
- Located in two historic areas: Pioneer Square-Skid Road Historic District (national) and International Special Review District (local)
- Bridge spans 4th Avenue
- Project needed because bridge does not meet current vertical clearance standards and its girders have been hit many times by tall vehicles; presence of rust and corrosion; interior columns are clear-zone obstacles to vehicles.
- Plan: Rehabilitate bridge. Rebuild structure and increase clearance; preserve historic elements including pedestrian railings, fascia girders, exterior columns and associated cladding.
- Bike lane under bridge will be raised and widened to 7 feet.
- Sidewalk will also be widened on the east side. Traffic lanes will be narrowed to accommodate.
- There will be street and sidewalk closures on Yesler Way from 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave and midway between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave while maintaining business entrances, and detour signs will be posted during construction. There will be alternating sidewalk and lane closures on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue but no full closure of 4th Avenue except on some occasional nights and weekends.
- Bike lane will be kept open, except during occasional night and weekend full closures.
- Contraflow bus lane on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been extended permanently from Terrace to Washington; bikes allowed in this lane.
- \$19.8 million total cost funded through Bridging the Gap and Federal Highway Bridge Program
- Timeline: Open House April 12, 4-6:30 pm at Yesler Community Center; construction starting in May; tentative completion Fall 2017.

### **Questions, Answers and Comments:**

**Q:** Bikes sharing bus lane especially in steep uphill areas can be hazardous. Can Transit Board discuss problem of bus-bike conflicts?

**A:** Yes, will discuss next month.

**Q:** Does this project include opportunity for protected bike lanes (PBL) on Yesler as envisioned in BMP?

**A:** Not included in scope of this project.

### **SBAB Recommendations:**

- Protect pedestrian and bike riders next to construction sites with solid barriers in lieu of tube delineators, as SDOT now requires for commercial development project construction.
- Follow up with plan for bike infrastructure/protected bike lanes on Yesler and coordinate with City Center Bike Network.

**Lander Street Grade Separation Project***Presenter:* Bill LaBorde*Purpose:* Inform SBAB re: reinstated project

- Overpass on Lander Street between 1st and 4th avenues over railroad tracks has been a high priority for freight and maritime stakeholders for many years.
- Designed 2007-2008, then put on hold in 2008 due to increased costs, ROW acquisition issues, recession.
- Funding now available: \$20 million from Move Seattle, \$70 million from state.
- Total project cost estimated at \$175,000,000.
- New opportunity for federal funding "Fast Lane Grant" passed in December
- SDOT applying for \$55 million federal grant. Optimistic regarding success, because grant program prioritizes railroad grade separation projects. April 14 application deadline.
- Tentative plan proposes 14 foot multi-use path on north side, sidewalk on south.
- Timeline: start design June this year; construct 2018-2020
- Seeking SBAB support for funding application

**Comments:****SBAB:**

- SBAB supportive but requests assurance that this will be a true complete streets project with robust pedestrian/bike facilities; proposed multi-use facility may not be adequate for volume of ped/bike traffic and difficult crossings at all legs of intersections. Concern about getting to path on one side only.
- The project should be integrated with planning for the bike/pedestrian bridge crossing at Holgate and closure of surface street at Holgate, to safely connect the Mountains-to-Sound Trail through SODO to the Sound, and provide improved rail yards for Amtrak.

**LaBorde:** SBAB will be involved in design; engineering from 2007-2008 can mostly still be used but design will go through public process. Application already states that this will meet Complete Streets standards.

**SBAB Action:**

Chair Kristi Rennebohm Franz proposed text of letter to support application with the understanding that bike and pedestrian infrastructure will provide optimal bike transportation safety and connectivity, and be a Complete Streets project. Riley Kimball moved and Don Brubeck seconded motion to approve letter. Motion passed unanimously.

**PROJECT UPDATES****Time:** 6:49**Presenter:** Kristi Rennebohm Franz, from information provided by Dawn Schellenberg (SDOT)**Purpose:** Quick status reports for ongoing projects

- Roosevelt PBL: construction started in March. 6-8 months to complete. SBAB members asked to pay attention and give feedback as work progresses.
- Bike access and parking at new Link Light Rail stations: Sound Transit will monitor use of bike parking at both stations; SBAB members expressed concerned that bike parking on Capitol Hill is across

street from Broadway protected bike lanes. Pronto stations should be relocated to better serve Light Rail especially at University Station. Secure bike parking is needed.

- SR520: WSDOT will present to Seattle Design Commission soon; Jeff Aken will follow progress for SBAB.
- Summer Parkways events: Rainier 8/13; Ballard 8/27; West Seattle 9/25 (coinciding with NACTO conference)
- Ballard Bridge: not discussed
- Pronto update: Phyllis and Riley are following.
- Sound Transit 3 Plan Draft: Open for public response. Cascade and other stakeholders are asking for more multimodal transportation funding as part of plan.
- Freight Master Plan: Draft not issued yet.

#### **SBAB Recommendations:**

- Pronto: Riley and Phyllis will work together regarding Pronto station placement and will prepare a draft advisory statement for SBAB to preview before May meeting.
- Sound Transit ST3 plan: Working group composed of Don Brubeck, Riley Kimball, Steve Kennedy and Jeff Aken will draft advisory letter and convene an on-line meeting to finalize before comment period ends April 29.

#### **SBAB REPORTS AND NEXT STEPS**

**Move Seattle Oversight Committee:** Steve Kennedy had been appointed as SBAB representative: Chair now recommends that Phyllis Porter assume this role and Steve agrees. Adam Bartz moved and Steve Kennedy seconded appointing Phyllis Porter as SBAB representative to the Move Seattle Oversight Committee. Approved unanimously.

**BMP Progress Report and BMP 5-year Implementation Plan:** Hard copy versions of final documents as sent to City Council were distributed to SBAB members, along with copies of the advisory letters sent by SBAB regarding the draft documents previously reviewed, and SDOT letters in response date April 5, 2016. Also distributed were SBAB Member Merlin Rainwater's comments on projects proposed for 2016-2017. SBAB members were asked to review these documents and plan for further discussion at the May meeting. SBAB has requested that criteria for project and program implementation be examined and revised; SDOT states this cannot be done until next year's progress report. SBAB requests that prioritization criteria be clarified sooner as it is not clear how criteria are being applied. Council does not "approve" the documents, but could shape implementation via the budget process.

**Safety Advisory Letter draft** from Chair Kristi Rennebohm Franz was distributed for discussion, outlining behaviors by vehicle drivers that endanger cyclists and pedestrians. SBAB members commented that it should include bike rider behaviors that endanger themselves or others. Question was asked: who is the audience for a potential letter, and what are we asking them to do? Three audiences, all needing somewhat different recommendations from SBAB: 1: Carmen Best, Deputy Chief of Seattle Police; 2: Mayor and City Council; 3: SDOT. Jeff suggests we also ask presenters how proposed projects address these concerns. Eventual letter could be a single letter with paragraphs specific to each audience.

**Online public meetings:** SBAB Chair Kristi Rennebohm Franz has worked with the City Attorney Gary Smith and IT representatives to develop a process to allow on-line meetings through Skype; this will

allow documents to be edited on-line; the public can sign on as guests; chair has the capability of allowing guests to comment. SBAB members request that effort be made to ensure that specially-called meetings are effectively announced to the public; also express concern that there not be a proliferation of special meetings that may limit members' ability to participate and could discourage new potential members. On-line meetings have advantage of less time required for attendance. Time to be scheduled using poll of members. Advance announcement to more widely distributed than just SBAB website listing.

**Onboarding sessions:** Most SBAB members have not yet participated in the City's onboarding sessions for boards and commissions members. Several have signed up for sessions. Chair KRF summarized key points:

1. Conflict of interest: conflict of interest occurs when there is a financial interest that could benefit member; when there is no actual financial conflict of interest but possible appearance of a conflict of interest, a member must disclose the connection.
2. Records maintenance: Records are maintained in the Seattle Municipal Archives. SBAB members are encouraged to keep all SBAB email correspondence in a separate folder; all correspondence should be cc'd to our liaison Nicole Freedman. This will assure that copies are retained. Members are asked to delete insignificant email threads such as discussions of meeting times or other arrangements.

**SBAB Openings:** Applications are being accepted for two SBAB positions, one which will be filled immediately to Leah Curtiss, and one with a term starting in September replacing Kristi Rennebohm Franz. Application deadline is April 21. A few SBAB members are needed to participate in screening and interviewing of applicants.

**NEXT STEPS:**

1. SDOT will provide clarification of current BMP evaluation criteria to SBAB at future meeting and consider revisions for next year.
2. CM O'Brien invited to next meeting. Send draft safety advisory letter to CM O'Brien.
3. Written material for report updates to be added to SBAB website "Meeting Presentations" section. "Board Correspondences" section to be made visible at first click instead of inside "What We Do".

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Meeting Minutes Distribution List:**

Edward Murray, Mayor, City of Seattle  
Andrew Glass-Hastings, Transportation Advisor, Office of the Mayor  
City Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Sustainability & Transportation Committee Chair  
City Councilmember Rob Johnson, Sustainability & Transportation Committee Vice-Chair  
City Councilmember Kshama Sawant, Sustainability & Transportation Committee Member  
City Councilmember Lisa Herbold, Sustainability & Transportation Committee Alternate  
Scott Kubly, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)  
Nicole Freedman, Active Transportation Director, SDOT

Dongho Chang, City Traffic Engineer, SDOT

Kevin O'Neill, Planning Manager, SDOT

Sam Woods, Manager, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs, SDOT

Diane Sugimura, Interim Director, Office of Planning and Development (OPCD)

Allie Gerlach, SDOT Communications

Kathy Nyland, Director, Department of Neighborhoods (DON)

Christa Dumpys, Karen Ko, Thomas Whitemore, Tim Durkan, Laurie Ames, Yun Pitre,

Kerry Wade, Jenny Frankl, DoN Neighborhood District Coordinators

Meeting Presenters

SBAB Members

Individual Meeting Attendees