



Meeting Information

Date: 10/30/2017 (Kick-Off Meeting)

Time: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Seattle Municipal Tower, Rooms 4050/4060 (40th Floor)

Facilitators: SDOT ADA Program

General: Committee Intent

The intent of the Pedestrian Access Advisory Committee (PAAC) meetings is to discuss potential accessibility issues or concerns within the Seattle public right-of-way for those living with disabilities. Finding solutions leading to better pedestrian access and prioritization for improvements is an important goal of the Committee. SDOT will strive to prioritize improvements based on Committee recommendations.

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome and Committee Intent
- II. Introductions
 - *Introduction of all participants in meeting.*
 - *ADA team (Mike Shaw, Mario Macias, Nathalie Salazar, Marvin Meischke and Joey Bullock) and Asset Management (Emily Burns and Colleen Fegley).*
- III. Committee Meeting Format
 - Designated/Permanent Committee Members
 - *List of people are on sign-in sheet stars next to their information. It appears that most participating in the kick-off meeting are also interested in being permanent members of the Committee.*
 - *Additions: Doug MacDonald is interested in giving information but not part of the committee.*
 - *Steve Lewis wants to serve, but did not sign in. (part of the vertical Access Committee).*
 - Meeting Frequency, Location, and Time
 - *Once every quarter?*
 - *Great for other entities that work outside the city of Seattle. It gives enough time to prepare and set aside on schedule.*
 - *Revenues for feedback may need to be coordinated (if once a quarter is the only time).*
 - *Marci - Create a prominent link on city website to provide information of what this committee provides. Provide an easier way to look for information.*
 - *Doug Wood – Suggested to meet every three months. It works out well for his board (City of Bremerton). May need to provide transportation to come to this meeting.*

- *Steve Lewis – May need to make sub-committees that are smaller, because this is a large group, for specific issues.*
- *May need to make minutes and agenda available to the public. A way to provide comments for people who can't make the meeting.*
 - *SDOT will keep this in mind; meetings and notes will be made available. Maybe create a forum on the website to submit comments from people who can't make it.*
- *Mike Shaw - we have a vertical access committee. Discussing the challenges of the hills downtown and potential maps and routes.*
- *Irene Stewart - Can provide some help in setting up skype calls for people who want to attend the meeting but can't physically attend.*

IV. Coordination with Other Efforts

- Pedestrian Advisory Board
- Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities
- Other?
 - *For those who are involved in other committees, we don't want to overlap unnecessarily with other committees and their efforts. We want to coordinate with others or work on providing the correct information.*
 - *We have a tool, an online map, to plan accessible routes. This provides slopes of streets and other information. We are working to have an app for this online tool. We are looking at a year for this. This app will have various tools to help with providing the best routes with factors like slopes, construction zones, crosswalks, sidewalk widths, etc.*
 - *Question Charity Ranger- is this currently available in the beginning stages? Mike- there are links on the website to access the map (live now).*
 - *Question Irene - is there going to be a link that provides comments when there are issues with this map? Including tracking vegetation growth, sidewalk widths, etc. Emily- You can use a find and fix it link. Email is the best option.*
 - *Doug Wood - We got interns to go out in Bremerton and note/track anything they encountered that might be an issue for providing access.*
 - *UW representative- She is working on providing accessible routes through campus. Including using elevators in buildings instead of using the streets that are very steep.*
 - *We have a lot of designs to account for these issues for steep streets but we are trying to promote the use of vertical transportation, especially in downtown.*
 - *Todd SCL- Bus ramps. They lower the bus and then the ramp. It's not the best way. May need to notice that this is not beneficial for wheel chair users. They need to unfold the ramps first and then lower the bus. Mike - we can put you in contact with them. King county metro.*
 - *Marci - She is a member of the transit board and concerned with metro issues. Please ask me about the concerns.*
 - *Anat – Issues with open data sharing (Heather Marx) for construction information. A. Its's not updated. B. Permits vs construction time frame. Because it is not easy to know when the sidewalks are closed.*
 - *Mike- there will always be a component of curb ramps and its design in this meeting.*

V. Sidewalk Information

- *Emily Burns (SDOT Asset and Performance Management) has been working on sidewalk data since 2007.*
- *Working on open data with all the sidewalk information collected.*
- *Sidewalk assessments were done this past summer (2017) with a \$400,000 budget (completed ahead of schedule and under budget). It considers any obstructions that are on sidewalks: settlement issues, utility obstructions, tree roots, etc. We wanted to improve the data to help identify which sidewalks we need to improve.*
- *How do we get out of request and start being reactive and create a program that has a plan of targeted sidewalk locations to improve?*
- *Property owners also have a responsibility and how we can provide guidance to improve their areas.*
- *Right now, the data is available in our open data base but this is beta data. We need to update this site and we are looking to have it done by next year.*
- *We are working on sidewalk facility counts to see which sidewalks we need to improve based on their usage score (based on the number of facilities it serves).*
- *We got the data collected and we are advocating for funding for a program to repair sidewalks.*
- *Richard Baron- Can I access the data in a map format? Emily- I can provide a link to our open data site, but at this moment we don't have a map.*
- *James C Ko. – Are there any studies for timed crosswalks? Mike- We follow our MUTCD for timing. We submit any requests to a traffic engineer and they will check if this is possible, if it impacts other parts of the intersection but an assessment will be made prior to changes.*

VI. Suggested Upcoming Topics for Committee Discussion

- **Curb Ramp Prioritization and Planning**
 - **Brief Overview (Mike Shaw)**
 - *We will use the PAAC to report on planned curb ramp improvements and those built throughout the City.*
 - *This group will also be able to help SDOT plan and prioritize curb ramp improvements and installations.*
- **Vertical Access (Downtown Seattle)**
 - **Brief Overview (Steve Lewis, Mike Shaw)**
 - *Steve Lewis- Vertical Access Committee (Steve also is co-chair of the Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities).*
 - *The vertical access issue involves getting people with wheelchairs and other mobility issues up the steep streets in downtown Seattle.*
 - *King County has a map of downtown that shows the elevator locations and routes to assist with getting up the hills.*
 - *The committee has discussed updating the map to provide accurate information on these routes. We are also looking into the building permitted process that may include vertical routes (some buildings don't have public elevators, so we are working with other buildings). Also working on getting current information/ buildings that are closed for other reasons).*

- Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)
 - Anat- Signalization and APS usage maps where people can check what is available on their routes.
 - Angela- Brand new improvements on 5th Ave but was very disappointed to note that there are no new features to help cane users.
 - Josefa- Timed crosswalks around retirement homes (Queen Ann). Need to consider the area in which the timed crosswalks in reference to the community needs.
- Bike Share Program
 - Bike share, ride share, and car share
 - Accessibility of sidewalks due to the bikes parked in the right of way.
- Designated Disabled Parking in Seattle
 - Karen- When a developer is impacting one side of the street, for parking spots that are affected foliage and actual concrete available. Provide guidance for developers for normal parking areas that provide accessible loading zones, enough concrete.
- SDOT Services: Customer Service Requests and Accessible Route Planner
 - A reminder to all that ADA improvements can be made through the website or by contacting Mike Shaw.
- Office of Civil Rights: How to File a Complaint
- Other (Your Suggestions!)
 - Irene- Draft form of an age friendly street manual. It would be great to share.
 - Ride sharing and access
 - Sidewalk access for vehicles (loading/unloading and accessible parking options); this should be address while developers are impacting block faces.
 - Signalization information on maps (including transit information)
 - Marci- Trolleys, rapid rides, problem solving on knowing when it is safe to cross bike lanes (wayfinding).
 - APS
 - Richard Baron - The inclusion of use beyond access. Possible inclusion of SPU of trash bins, DOT in terms of signage, Issues of inspection and enforcement (Time), Police enforcement (where they park). Lack of community sensitivity and looking to improve this.
 - Maureen- It's a big issue for cane users when and car tries to make a right and beat the pedestrian. Educating the public/drivers.
 - Adequate time for street crossings at signalized intersections (particularly in high need areas, for example adjacent to multiple retirement facilities)
 - Charity- Include a category on "access" in the find and fix it app.
 - Staci Haber (submitted via email): Pedestrians connections to transit; benches; resources (printed, electronic) and how to distribute and to be accessible; no "wrong door approach" (accessibility awareness and cross-departmental relationships).

Action Items:

- Create a survey to suggest some days during the week and times for the committee to meet.
- Todd- There is one ramp that does not have enough turning space. Is there a way to improve this specific ramp? I've talked to many people and customer service. Property management of the building said they are going to do something and nothing seems to get done. Need to talk to Todd for this specific request.