

July 11, 2007

Mayor Greg Nickels
City of Seattle
P.O. Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Dear Mayor Nickels:

The Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group voted at its June 29 meeting to take the following positions on policy changes proposed by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT).

1. We oppose the proposed removal of \$1.5 million in annual funding for “projects that enhance pedestrian mobility or safety” generated through the 2006 Bridging the Gap Transportation Levy from the established district council review and ratings process.
2. We oppose the proposed restriction on levy-funded pedestrian improvements to projects with a total cost of \$100,000 or more.
3. We oppose the proposed move from a one-year funding cycle to a three-year funding cycle for levy-funded pedestrian improvements.

The reasons for our opposition are as follows:

The enabling legislation for the Bridging the Gap Transportation Levy (Ord. #122232) specifically mandates that these funds will be allocated through the existing Neighborhood Street Fund process. Allowing SDOT to unilaterally change the allocation process would violate both the letter and the spirit of this ordinance.

The Neighborhood Street Fund allocation process is a proven procedure specifically designed to maximize the role of Seattle citizens in the allocation of scarce transportation dollars. We oppose any effort to reduce public involvement in these funding decisions.

The proposed move to a three-year allocation cycle would greatly reduce the impact of the yet-to-be-drafted Pedestrian Master Plan on future funding decisions.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our opinion on these issues of importance to all Seattle residents.

Sincerely,

The Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group