

**Mercer Middle School - Traffic & Safety Committee - Matrix by Topic (February 2005)**

	Involving School and/or parents			
	Action	Concern	Status	Comments
4	Can an educational effort targeting students be implemented to improve safety?	Betty Jean Williams is coordinating this grant.	In progress	Bicycle Alliance has awarded a small grant (\$4,000) that will partially be used to fund a "safe routes to school" project (awarded Nov 2004).
25	Can parents way of dropping off students be re-configured to decrease congestion in school parking lot and on Columbia Way S in mornings?	Parents come into parking lot and stop to drop off students which clogs the short queing area in driveway and onto Columbian Way S.	(unknown)	Seattle Schools will need to be involved in these changes.
26	How can on-site parking at school be better managed to both meet users needs and increase safety for pedestrians walking in the various parking areas surrounding the school buildings?		(unknown)	Seattle Schools will need to be involved in these changes.
27	Can parking for the Seahawks Academy be improved?	Currently they park on the lawn adjacent to the classrooms.	(unknown)	Seattle Schools will need to be involved in these changes. Principal Ruth Medsker will put in work order for estimate to remove turf and replace it with gravel (11/23/04).
31	Can student access from the main campus area to 16th Avenue S be improved?	Currently a staircase on side of auditorium is only formal access up and down this slope - students walk across parking lot and down through shrubbery to arrive closer to the pedestrian crossing at 15th Ave S, S Oregon and Columbian Way S.	(unknown)	Seattle Schools will need to be involved in these changes.
33	Can school improve controlled access to property and lock down options?	Mercer Middle School is "vulnerable" and current site design has many challenges to securing the property in an emergency.	(unknown)	Kathy Johnson (school planner) will investigate opportunities for federal and other grant funds for this, possibly combining this issue with traffic and circulation.

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	<b>Involving School &amp; VA Hospital</b>			
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Concern</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
5	Can SDOT install a stop sign or other device in the slip turn (right turn) lane at the Veteran's Hospital driveway and turning right onto Columbian Way?	Cars using the "slip turn lane" coming out of the Veteran's Hospital driveway and turning right onto Columbian Way rarely slow down. School kids must cross this to use the ped signal and crosswalk to get across Columbian Way to the Metro bus stop.	In progress	Kathy Johnson has contacted Phil Fesmire (764-2005, Philip.Fesmire2@med.VA.Gov), facilities manager from the VA hospital. Most likely any sort of sign for the pedestrian crossing at the slip turn lane would be on VA property, not SDOT right-of-way. VA could trim vegetation to improve visibility for approaching drivers.
8	Can the number of people who walk, bike, or bus to work at the VA Hospital be increased?	VA is a CTR-law affected employer. Who is the VA transportation coordinator? Perhaps work with Metro and the VA to increase the number of people using alternate.	(unknown)	The VA Hospital and Metro would need to be involved in these changes (Jan 2005).
29	How can ivy along property line between school and VA Hospital be removed or managed better?	Ivy along property line between school and VA Hospital is rat-infested and needs to be removed or improved.	(unknown)	Seattle Schools and/or VA Hospital will need to be involved in any of these changes.
28	Can a satisfactory way be found to handle the pedestrian traffic of VA Hospital employees (and others) when they walk across school property?	Concern is that the fence on the east side of school property (next to VA) is not secure and is a permeable barrier.	(unknown)	Seattle Schools and/or VA Hospital will need to be involved in any of these changes.

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	<b>Involving School &amp; Parks Dept.</b>			
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Concern</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
23	Can the shoulder on the east side of 16th Avenue S be improved so that it is usable even in rainy weather?	Currently it is dirt, so it would need a curb and/or sidewalk.	(unknown)	SDOT and/or Parks and Recreation need to be involved in these changes.
24	Can Parks and Recreation horticulture and delivery trucks routing onto 16th Avenue be improved?	(please clarify this)	(unknown)	Parks and Recreation will need to be involved in these changes.
30	How can the school auditorium be better managed when used for non-school events (Parks Dept & basketball games)?	Can attendees of non-school events use the door on 16th Avenue exclusively?	(unknown)	Seattle Schools and/or Parks and Recreation will need to be involved in these changes.
32	Can the gate at the NW corner of school lot be managed better?	Lock on this gate is used inconsistently and is often cut to provide access for non-school events to northern school parking lot. Parks and school jointly own the gate.	(unknown)	Seattle Schools and/or Parks and Recreation will need to be involved in these changes.

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<b>Involving School Buses</b>				
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Concern</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
12	Can bus load areas be re-configured to increase safety for students while loading and unloading, and reduce congestion?	Currently buses line up on 16th Avenue S and kids dart in buses getting to parent's cars on west side of 16th. <b><u>Also buses line up on "planting strip area" on north side of Columbian Way.</u></b>	(unknown)	Seattle Schools will need to be involved in any of these changes.
15	Can SDOT install 2-hour parking time restrictions on 16th Avenue S to better manage turnover for local businesses?	The businesses are located on the west side of 16th Avenue S at Columbian Way S. Currently the west side of 16th Ave S is signed as "No Parking." The street is too narrow to allow parking to be added to the west side. Time limits could be added on the east side.	In progress	<b>Next step: school would need to indicate their support.</b> SDOT is open to installing 2-hour time limits from the auditorium entrance south to Columbia Way S/S Oregon. This request would need to be evaluated in light of, and in coordination with, other requests about 16th Ave S.
19	Can bus load areas be re-configured to increase safety for students while loading and unloading, and reduce congestion?	Currently buses line up on 16th Avenue S and <b><u>kids dart in buses getting to parent's cars on west side of 16th.</u></b> Also buses line up on "planting strip area" on north side of Columbian Way.	(unknown)	Seattle Schools will need to be involved in these changes.
20	Can parents way of picking up students be re-configured to increase students' safety, especially along 16th Ave S?	Students dart in-between school buses qued on the east side of 16th Ave S, into traffic, to reach west side of 16th Ave S where parents' park and wait.	(unknown)	Seattle Schools will need to be involved in these changes.
34	<i>(New item)</i> Can something be done about cars stopping/parking in the travel lane on southbound/ eastbound Columbian Way?	Cars park or stop and pick up students just past McPhersons.	(unknown)	This item should be referred to the Seattle Schools/SDOT meetings for enforcement requests (Megan Hoyt, Dave Anderson).

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<b>Involving Metro Buses</b>				
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Concern</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
21	Can Metro adjust the service schedule so kids don't have to wait 20 minutes for the bus after school?	Would like to explore: 1. further refinements to bus stop placement especially during times when school kids arrive and depart and 2. adjustments to bus schedules especially during times when school kids arrive and depart (7:00 am - 8:00 am, and 2:00 pm	(unknown)	Metro Route Planner Drew Robinson will need to review this (Drew.Robinson@METROKC.gov , 684-2105). He has been invited to attend the Jan 18, 2005 committee meeting.

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<b>Involving School &amp; 16th Ave residents</b>				
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Concern</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
16	Can angle parking be installed on 16th Avenue S to increase the parking supply for school employees, area residents and businesses, and attendees of events at Jefferson Park?	SDOT right-of-way is 25 feet. The curb cut out where the buses park is school property. Installation of angle parking would most likely need to use this area of school property in addition to removing a travel lane (e.g. making 16th Ave S one-way).	No further action	No. In its current configuration and use the street is too narrow (25 feet) for angle parking. If the street were to become one-way, this proposal could be re-explored. Additionally, an acceptable method of preventing vehicles from overhanging the sidewalk would need to be identified.
17	Can SDOT make 16th Avenue S a one-way street (going north) from Columbian Way S to S Dakota Street.	What is the possibility of making 16th Ave S a one way street from Oregon/Columbia Way up to S Dakota Street? <b>NEXT STEP: Outreach needed to adjacent property owners to determine and demonstrate support for this idea.</b>	(unknown)	SDOT is open to this idea, but would need to see strong support from adjacent property owners and Dept of Parks & Rec. SDOT would like to clarify if 16th Ave S would be one-way only up to Nevada, or extend up to Dakota. SDOT wonders if vehicle speeds would increase if made one-way.
22	Can public safety conditions on 16th Avenue S and north end of school be improved?	There is some vandalism along 16th Avenue S and the north end of the school property is poorly lit.	(unknown)	Seattle Schools, City Crime Prevention Coordinator, and neighbors will need to be involved in any of these changes. Crime Prevention Coordinator for this area is Mark Solomon (386-9766 or mark.solomon@seattle.gov).

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Involving SDOT & others				
	Action	Concern	Status	Comments
13	Can the functionality of the "triangle" area and egress to McPherson's Market be improved?	Should this item be included in the larger study being proposed by community for this immediate vicinity?	(unknown)	SDOT and McPherson's market would need to be involved in any changes here. Is it feasible/desirable for McPherson's to install curb stops to better manage traffic and entrance/egress on their lot?
35	<i>(New item)</i> I-5 traffic using 15th Ave as alternate route in heavy traffic.		(unknown)	(Added per e-mail from Betty Jean Williams on 1/14/05).
36	<i>(New Item)</i> Cars cutting through on Snoqualmie (South of Columbian) to avoid signal at 15th & Columbian.		(unknown)	(Added per e-mail from Betty Jean Williams on 1/14/05).

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	<b>Include in Traffic &amp; Circulation Study</b>			
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Concern</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
3	Can the school lead the effort to develop funding for a "trafic and circulation study" centered on improving vehicle movement and student safety on school grounds and parking lot.	Any study of improvements or changes to egress and circulation on school property would need to include impacts to surrounding streets. When the study is conducted SDOT will assign a liaison to clarify what data and/or options SDOT needs to see collected	First steps	Bicycle Alliance has awarded a small grant (\$4,000) that will be split between a "safe routes to school" project and seed money for the study. The study may also examine safety and lock-down issues or combine these with the traffic concerns (awarded Nov 2
9	Can SDOT improve the pedestrian crossing around 15th Avenue S, S Oregon, and Columbian Way S?	To get from the school to the market or to the west side of 15th Ave S students must often use two cycles of the signal. It take a really long time to get across using the signals.	Study needed	To evaluate options for changing the timing of the signal, a study would need to be conducted. SDOT recommends including this in the larger study being proposed by community for this immediate vicinity.