

**Rainier Traffic Safety Project
Task Force Meeting
September 13 Meeting Notes**

Attending:

Highlighted (bold) indicates attended the meeting

Contact Person	Organization
Grace Crunican, Co-Chair	Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
Harry Bailey, Co-Chair	Seattle Police Department (SPD)
Task Force Members:	
Ronald F Howard	Aki Kurose Middle School
Rob Mohn	Columbia City Business Association
Grant J. Wong, DDS	Dental Care
David Levinger	Feet First
Jen Cole	Feet First
Margaret Kitchell	Feet First
Patricia Newton	Franklin High School
Grover Haynes	Genesee Merchants Association
Grant Way	Genesee Merchants Association
Denise Gloster	Hillman City Business Association
Pam Wrenn	Hillman City Business Association
Mary Coltrane	King County DOT
Victor Obeso	KC Metro Transit
Ellen Bevington	KC Metro Transit
Sharon Slebodnick	KC Metro Transit
Deanne Boisvert, MNPL, BSPH	King County Public Health
Lisa Watson	King County Public Health
Suzanne Banchemo	Mondo Meats
Kirk Gillett	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
Peter Whitehead	Nelson Trucking
Elaine Hayes	Rainier Beach Coalition for Community Empowerment
Robert Gray, Jr.	Rainier Beach High School
Mark Capestany	Rainier Beach Merchants Association
Brita Decker	Rainier Othello Safety Association
Jeremy Valenta	Rainier Othello Safety Association
Mariana Quarnstrom	Rainier Valley Chamber of Commerce and SE Seattle Crime Prevention Council
Stephanie Innis-Frans	Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board
Glenn Harris	Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
Lyle Bicknell	Seattle Department of Planning & Development
Brian Kemper	SDOT
Dawn Schellenberg	SDOT
Tracy Krawczyk	SDOT
Wayne Wentz	SDOT
Sandra "Sam" Woods	SDOT
Deputy Chief Gary English	Seattle Fire Department
Mike Finkle	Seattle Law Department
Ken Takahashi	Seattle Office of Economic Development
Kenny Pittman	Seattle Office of Policy & Management
Cheryl Fraser	Seattle Parks Department
Captain Joseph Kessler	Seattle Police Department (SPD)
Lt. Mike Nolan	SPD (Sgt. Dave Abe attended)
Sgt. Brian Johnson	SPD

Contact Person	Organization
Dave Anderson	Seattle Schools
Jeannine Jacobson	South Lake Improvement District
Scott Barkan	Southeast Effective Development
Ruth Egger	Southeast Senior Physical Activity Network; U of W
Jeanne Krikawa	Underhill Company
Susan Blaker	Washington Liquor Control Board
Carla Sawyer	Washington Traffic Safety Commission
Dr. Gina Beretta	Washington Traffic Safety Commission
Rick Hagreen	West Farm Foods
Brian Walsh	WSDOT
Matthew Enders	WSDOT
Guests:	
Pauh Wang	SDOT, Bicycle Program

Welcome and Introductions

Grace Crunican welcomed the Task Force and stated that she appreciated the task force's continued participation and recognized that without it, the project could not succeed. She reported that corridor signs are being assessed for damage and usefulness. Street name signs will be upgraded to meet ADA requirements for larger lettering and easy way finding. Engineering improvements will begin in earnest in January, upon City Council's spending authorization of the grant. SDOT is meeting with the community to identify ways to connect the 'pearls' (various communities) along Rainier Ave S. Rob Mohn encouraged this work to continue. Crunican also acknowledged the unfortunate fatalities recently on the corridor. Although this reflects what the historical trend statistics tell us, safety is a high priority and the project's mission is to turn this trend around.

Citywide Bicycle Master Plan

Pauh Wong (SDOT) presented on the Bicycle Master Plan. The plan is the first step in the Mayor's vision to make Seattle the best bicycling city in the country. Possible improvements are being evaluated based on field work, measuring streets and collecting traffic volumes and collision histories, and public input. Two more open houses will be held. A draft will be available in early 2007. Wong provided his telephone number, 684-8562, for additional questions or comments. Participants mentioned alternate parallel bicycle friendly streets should be signed as a bike route if Rainier is not a good option. Some questioned how much "teeth" the bicycle master plan would have.

Work Plan Implementation—Status Report

Enforcement

Sgt. Abe distributed a fact sheet on the pilot red light photo enforcement program and provided an update on the Rainier and Orcas location. From July 26 – September 11:

- Printed 779 red light violation notices.
- Resulted in 543 citations being mailed.
- Reviewed citations and noticed 40 percent of registered vehicle owners had Asian surnames.
 - Wondered if needed signs in more languages?
- Collected data for northbound direction only, because southbound camera was not installed until September 7.
- Rejected were 15.8 percent of violations due to hidden license plates.
 - WSDOT asked if it was possible to use parking enforcement officials to address this issue.
 - It will take about six months to determine if the red light camera has an impact on reducing collisions.

Sgt. Abe presented results of the traffic and DUI emphasis. Since June:

- SPD issued 271 citations
- Three were DUI's. Violators are unwilling to say, if they were drinking at an establishment. Most say they were at home, or at a friend's house.
- For statistical purposes, SPD divided the corridor into four segments: South city limit to 51st Ave S; 51st Ave S to Orcas, Orcas to MLK, MLK to Jackson. Extra enforcement is targeted for the next 18 to 24 months.

Engineering

Brian Kemper stated although the grant funding is not expected until December, the department has made a lot of progress on the inventory and analysis including:

- Identifying five potential locations for pedestrian countdown signals: McClellan, Alaska, Orcas, Graham and Othello streets.
- No locations have been chosen for the three LED pedestrian push buttons.
- A 'lead walk' will be incorporated at Henderson Street to allow more time to cross. 'Lead walks' are also used at Fifth and Pine and 14th and Pine.
- Completed study of left turn needs at Orcas. Extra left turn protection will be added.
- Sign inventory complete. SDOT will move to implement changes upon Council spending authorization.
- There are 800 regulatory/advisory signs along corridor and half will be replaced.
- In addition, about 200 street signs will be swapped out, too.
- SDOT is not using in-pavement warning lights or "flashing crosswalks," because there's no formal study to measure effectiveness and no criteria for when to use.
- SDOT has applied for a grant to revise the intersection of Rainier and Genesee.
- As part of it, SDOT will review parking in the area to help address concerns about dangerous, haphazard parking.

Education

- Posters, window clings and informational cards are available
- Materials printed in five languages selected by reviewing the number of requests for interpreters at area health clinics.
- The safety quiz on the web site is in all five languages.
- Lots of project materials were distributed at community events over the summer.
- Rack cards will go into PTA packets for the SE schools.
- SDOT has a project PowerPoint that for anyone who would like show it.
- SDOT and Feet First sponsoring a crosswalk action and walking school bus at Emerson School in October.
- Question: Would banners be a good outreach tool?
- Banners need a message that speaks to people, not just announcing project.
- Banners should pull at heart strings.
- Other ideas mentioned included: number of days without an accident; running total of number of collisions and associated costs, slogans like 'Slow down, my mother works here.'
- Businesses like banners to announce you've entered a particular area.

The Liquor Control Board has distributed materials throughout the corridor and is planning undercover work at the end of the month. The establishment, Superstars, is now out of business due to liquor control board violations.