



Seattle Department of Transportation

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Grace Crunican, Director

September 2, 2009

**SUBJECT: BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SOUTH END OF THE
BALLARD BRIDGE**

Dear Stakeholder:

I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with Eric Widstrand and Dawn Schellenberg of my staff on the proposed bicycle improvements at the southwest corner of the Ballard Bridge at Emerson Street. It is input from folks like yourself that helps SDOT maintain a transportation system that balances the needs of all users.

I understand as a result of this meeting, the freight and bicycle constituents and SDOT Traffic Engineer agree on the next steps for this project. The proposed near-term design that is shown on our web site will not be implemented. Instead, SDOT is planning to take the following steps:

- Review sign placement for southbound traffic to give motorists more advance notice that bicycles will be entering the road.
- Trim trees in the area to improve visibility for traffic and bicyclists.
- Paint the curb cut where bicyclists enter the road to help alert drivers.
- Evaluate speeds of southbound traffic on 15th Avenue W. Depending on the results of the speed study additional measures may be taken including installing a radar speed sign, or lowering the speed limit.

I am aware that there is also a proposal for a longer-term grade separated solution allowing southbound bicyclists to travel underneath Emerson Street. As you know, my staff developed conceptual designs for this solution that range in cost from \$900,000 to over \$3.1 million. I want to be up front with you about the feasibility of designing and constructing this project within the next year to year and a half. As the city works through a \$72 million revenue shortfall and we move into new leadership, priorities and projects may change. However, at this time an unplanned project of this magnitude with all of our fiscal constraints could not be implemented in 2010. I appreciate the commitment from you toward this longer term solution and look forward to working collaboratively as other challenges and opportunities arise.



Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Suite 3900, PO Box 34996 Seattle, WA 98104-4996

Tel: (206) 684-ROAD (684-7623), TTY/TDD (206) 684-4009, FAX: (206) 684-5180

Internet address: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation>

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Please continue to work with Eric Widstrand on proposed improvements at this location.
Thanks for your help in developing a workable solution at this challenging location.

Sincerely,



Grace Crunican
Director, Seattle Department of Transportation

CC:

Meeting Attendees:

Warren Aakervick, FMAC
Mark Bandy, SPAB
Sean Cryan, SBAB
Tessa Greigor, Cascade Bicycle Club
Ron Hildebrandt, BINMIC
David Hiller, Cascade Bicycle Club
Dawn Schellenberg, SDOT
Blake Trask, SBAB
Eugene Wasserman, BINMIC
Eric Widstrand, SDOT
Marilyn Young Skogland, BINMIC

Not in Attendance:

Chuck Ayers, Cascade Bicycle Club
Peter Philips, Philips Publishing Group