City of Seattle

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board

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April 22, 2011

Ref Lindmark and Kate Joncas, Co-chairs, CTAC III
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Ave, Suite 3800
PO Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

Dear Mr. Lindmark and Ms. Joncas:

On behalf of the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB), we would like to thank the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee III (CTAC III) for the opportunity to submit comment on our transportation priorities relating to bicycle facilities.

In drafting our priorities, SBAB considered the three questions posed by CTAC III:

- Given the limited resources available for transportation, is it more important to focus most of these new resources on new projects, or focus most of the resources on maintaining the existing system?
- What are your highest priority specific bicycle improvement projects?
- What are the most important things to consider when prioritizing transportation investments?

Maintenance of existing bicycle facilities and roads in general continues to be a high priority for SBAB. However, for new revenue sources, we urge CTAC III to prioritize resource allocation for new facilities to complete critical connections in the existing bicycle network and increase the safety for riders along other routes through the addition of cycle tracks, neighborhood greenways, or separated bike lanes.

The below graphic (Table 1) organizes our priority projects by level of importance. Attachment A further details the purpose and benefits of each of the projects listed. The projects selected would accomplish different objectives and serve cyclists of varying levels of ability and propensity to ride. From improved commuter facilities, to neighborhood greenways that accommodate new and younger cyclists, to downtown cycle tracks that facilitate short urban trips for residents, workers and visitors alike, we believe these projects would all contribute to Seattle becoming a world-class city for bicycling.

In addition, SBAB recommends that the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) install 10 to 15 miles of new neighborhood greenways per year; at least 1 new mile of cycle track per year; complete at least 10 miles of retrofits/improvements of existing bicycle facilities per year (i.e., upgrading single-striped bike lanes to double-striped bike lanes); and install bicycle parking facilities where needed along existing corridors or new projects.

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

-City Council Resolution 25534

It should be noted that maintenance and safety spot improvement projects, such as fixing pot-holes, retrofitting drainage grates, restriping worn markings, adding more bike detection at signalized intersections, and other routine right of way improvements are high on our priority list and that for the sake of this exercise, we assume that funding for these much needed items will be provided through other sources.

As evident in our priority projects, SBAB places a premium on improving the safety of cyclists in Seattle by building facilities that increase the overall number of cyclists on our city's streets. We also support creating and improving facilities in areas experiencing high-growth of residences and/ or businesses, as well as in those areas that currently lack cycling infrastructure.

Table 1: SBAB Priority Projects

1ST	Ballard Bridge Downtown Waterfront Cycletracks Downtown Core Cycletracks Mercer West Corridor and Fifth Avenue Connectors North Rainier Corridor
2ND	Beacon Hill Greenways Chief Sealth Trail Connectors Eastlake Cycletracks Jose Rizal Bridge and King Street Connectors West Seattle Bridge and South Spokane Street
3RD	1st Avenue South Bridge Approaches Delridge Way SW and Connectors 103rd Street NE Connector at I-5 SODO/Georgetown Neighborhood Connectors Westlake Cycletracks
4TH	520 Connections NE 47th Street Overpass SODO Trail West Seattle Triangle

We appreciate the thoughtful work that CTAC III is undertaking to ensure that any potential revenue streams are put to good use. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Blake Trask
Chair, SBAB

Max Hepp-Buchanan
Vice Chair, SBAB

Cc: Mayor Mike McGinn; Councilmember Tom Rasmussen; Peter Hahn, SDOT; Dawn Schellenberg, SDOT

Attachments (1):
Attachment A: Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Project Priorities – April 2011

Attachment A

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board
Project Priorities - April 2011

Level One	Project	Description	Purpose
	Ballard Bridge and related improvements	Retrofit installation of bike facility on bridge span, improvement of north and south bridge approaches, and establishment of Ship Canal spur trail that connects to Interbay	Improved connection over/around physical barriers; improved safety for riders
	Downtown Waterfront Cycletracks	Installation of a cycle track along the improved Seattle waterfront	Separated facility in high-use area
	Downtown Cycletracks	Installation of a north/south cycle track through downtown	Separated facility in high-use area
	Mercer West Corridor and Fifth Avenue Connectors	Installation of separated facilities from Roy to Harrison along 5th Ave, transitioning to Harrison, and then south on 6th Avenue; provides separated and safe connection between Uptown and Downtown urban centers	Improved neighborhood connection via arterial roadway; improved connection from South Lake Union to waterfront/Elliott Bay Park via the planned West Thomas Street Overpass
	North Rainier Corridor	TBD; largely would follow recommendations from the South East Transportation Study (SETS), and DPD implementation of the North Rainier Neighborhood Plan Update	Improved neighborhood connection via arterial roadway and/or adjacent side streets and trails
Level Two	**Project**	**Description**	**Purpose**
	Beacon Hill Greenways	Installation of neighborhood greenway on Beacon Hill	Improved residential/non-arterial network
	Chief Sealth Trail Missing Links	Per Bicycle Master Plan and SETS, complete north segment of Chief Sealth Trail from 15th Ave S to I-5 and under to S Industrial Way	Improved trail network
	Eastlake Cycletracks	Installation of a cycle track along Eastlake Ave E	Separated facility in high-use area
	Jose Rizal Bridge/King Street Connectors	From Mountains to Sound Trail, develop a separated facility on 12th Ave S over Jose Rizal Bridge to at least S King St; develop high-quality shared street/Neighborhood Greenway along S King St between 12th Ave S and 5th Ave S	Improved connections over/around physical barriers (S Jackson transit priority)/improved neighborhood connections
	West Seattle Bridge/South Spokane Street	(1) Fix pathways along lower S Spokane St; make intersection improvements to the intersection and erratic signal timing at the corner of Chelan, West Marginal, Delridge, and Lower Spokane; develop established bicycle route at the intersection of S Spokane St and E Marginal Way S; (2) Per the Bicycle Master Plan recommendation, create a multiuse trail (or other separated facility) along S Spokane St from E Marginal Way S to Airport Way S	Improved connections over/around physical barriers/improved neighborhood connections; Improved trail network
Level Three	**Project**	**Description**	**Purpose**
	1st Avenue South Bridge Approaches	Project primarily addresses 1st Avenue S Bridge approaches.	Improved connections over/around physical barriers; improved neighborhood connections
	Delridge Way SW and Connectors	Installation of bike lane or buffered bike lane on Delridge Way SW from the West Seattle Bridge to south city boundary; enhancement of adjacent/connected bicycle routes	Improved neighborhood connection via arterial roadway
	103rd Street NE Connector at I-5	Provides bicycle and pedestrian connection underneath I-5 to link Northgate ST Station with North Seattle Community College	Improved neighborhood connection via trail underpass
	SODO/Georgetown Neighborhood Connectors	Bike lanes on Airport Way S and East Marginal Way S from SODO to Georgetown; improved east/west connections through Georgetown	Improved neighborhood connection via arterial roadway; augments cycling facilities in a constrained district
	Westlake Cycletracks	Installation of a cycle track along Westlake Ave N	Separated facility in high-use area
Level Four	**Project**	**Description**	**Purpose**
	520 Connections	Improved connections on the west side of the SR-520 bridge	Improved regional network
	NE 47th Street Overpass	Build bicycle/pedestrain overpass on NE 47th St over I-5	Improved neighborhood connection via arterial roadway/improved connection around physical barrier
	SODO Trail	Complete missing link of SODO Trail	Improved trail network
	West Seattle Triangle	Improve intersections and connections for cyclists between the West Seattle Bridge and the W Seattle Triangle	Improved neighborhood connection via arterial roadway