

## **Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group**

March 28, 2008

### **Staff Report**

Mayor makes Investment for Street and Sidewalk Safety: Mayor Greg Nickels took another step forward in making Seattle streets safer for walkers. The mayor kicked off his "Safe Crossings" campaign by announcing \$2.5 million in crosswalk, sidewalk, and other critical improvements. He committed \$1.3 million for crosswalk improvements and at certain roadways. Over the last four years, SDOT has installed 12 new pedestrian signals for improved safety. SDOT plans to install ten more pedestrian signals and accelerate safety improvements at 28 other crosswalks using \$1.3 million. This investment is part of the mayor's effort to reduce the 400 collisions that occur each year by increasing pedestrian and driver safety awareness and improving 110 crosswalks at 50 intersections. In addition to improving crosswalks, Mayor Nickels will commit about \$500,000 for improvements to South Jackson Street, \$250,000 for Alaskan Way Seawall repairs, \$225,000 for sidewalk improvements to Northeast 98th Street, and \$125,000 for the Burke-Gilman "missing link" design.

Pedestrian Safety for Elementary School Students: Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is working with the Pacific Rim Resources/Alta Engineers consultant team to develop a pedestrian safety education program for elementary school students. The goal of the program is: *to increase pedestrian safety through education and encouragement, which will contribute to an increase in walking by school-aged children.* A group of stakeholders, including representatives from Feetfirst, the PMPAG, the Cascade Bicycle Club, Public Health Seattle King County, City Council, SDOT, Seattle Police Department, and the Washington State Department of Transportation participated in a workshop to identify issues and methods that will contribute to a successful program. This workshop followed a series of interviews to get input from teachers, parents, the school district, school administrators, and others who are currently working on implementing walking programs in Seattle schools. The next steps for this project are to identify best practices, coordinate with target schools, gather data and draft a strategy and implementation plan. This project is on schedule to launch in the target schools in the 2008-2009 school year.

### Updates on the Walking Preferences Survey

- Translations, Alternate Formats and Distribution: SDOT is in the process of finalizing print details and translations for the walking preferences survey. The survey will be available in hard copy and electronically on the Pedestrian Master Plan website. In addition to the English version, the survey will be translated into eight languages and will also be available in a limited vision version. Thanks to PMPAG member Jean Healy for advising SDOT on the best ways to make the survey accessible to people with limited vision.

- SDOT is currently developing the list of venues to distribute the survey based on the stakeholder analysis from the Public Engagement Strategy. Thanks to the PMPAG members who provided the contact information for the groups they will attend. Please send additional meeting information to Katherine Bush ([Katherine.bush@seattle.gov](mailto:Katherine.bush@seattle.gov)) SDOT staff is developing a master list of existing meetings and will be contacting PMPAG members to identify the groups each member plans to attend in order to explain and distribute the Walking Preferences survey.
- Understanding the Walking Preferences of SHA Seniors: With the support of SDOT staff, PMPAG member BettyLou Valentine is spearheading the effort to bring the walking preference surveys to residents of Seattle Housing Authority(SHA) Senior Housing. BettyLou has met with SHA staff to identify eight Senior apartment building to coordinate walking tours over the next several months. The selected sites are located throughout the city and include: Bitter Lake Manor, Columbia Place, Gideon Matthews, Leschi House, Pinehurst Court, Ravenna School, Schwabacher House and South Park Manor.

In addition to the walk coordination, BettyLou has developed the "Seattle Walking Stories" project. Through this project residents of senior housing will be given the opportunity to share the memories, poems and short stories related to walking in Seattle. These stories will be posted on the Pedestrian Master Plan website and will also be used in the Plan, as appropriate. Project information and drop boxes for the walking preferences survey and stories will be placed in selected senior housing buildings throughout the city.

- Sound Steps Walking Project: The Seattle Parks Department coordinates the Sound Steps Walking Project. The goal of Sound Steps is to improve the health and wellness of senior adults 50 and better throughout the Greater Seattle area by establishing a community-based walking program designed to encourage physical activity and social interaction. SDOT is working with the Sound Steps project coordinator to distribute the Walking Preference surveys and solicit input from these walkers.
- Under-represented Stakeholder Involvement: SDOT is working with the City of Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committee to identify participants from Seattle's immigrant and refugee communities for the under-represented stakeholders roundtable. This group will also help distribute Walking Preference surveys in the appropriate languages to their members and constituents.
- Youth roundtable: SDOT is organizing a roundtable discussion with youth representatives. Participants of the roundtable will be selected from the Parks Department's community center youth councils, the Mayor's Youth Council and other agencies that serve youth.

Seattle City Council Pedestrian Safety Committee: The Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 1 at 10:30 AM in City Hall Council Chambers. All PMPAG members are encouraged to attend. Agenda highlights include a report on the SDOT/SPD 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2007 collision report, an update on the Pedestrian Safety Education and Enforcement Campaign Framework process, the Speed Vans in School Zones Pilot Program, and the Parks Department "Sound Walk" project as well as the regular Pedestrian Master Plan update. The final item on the agenda is a report back by the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board members on their Pedestrian Master Plan visioning exercise the Paul Niebanck shared with the PMPAG in February.

