

Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group (PMPAG)
Kick-off Meeting
SMT 1600
June 29, 2007
8 – 10 am

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Suzanne Anderson, Ana Brown, James Bush, Rebecca Deehr, Jean Healy, Tom Im, Rob Kaufman, Bea Kumasaka, Steve Marquardt, Kate Martin, Fiona McCargo, Michael McGinn, Paul Niebanck, Paulo Nunes-Ueno, Charles Redmond, Jim Schultz, Richard Staudt, Preston Tinsley, and BettyLou Valentine.

Public Comment

Public comments were made by Jennifer Messenger (Esperanza Center); Chris Leman (Pedestrian Advocate); Sumner Cherberg (Greenwood Resident) and Andrea Okomski (Pedestrian InRoads).

Review of Group Protocols

Barbara Gray reviewed the following changes recommended by the PMPAG to the latest version of the Group protocols document:

- Members are asked to identify themselves before speaking, with one person speaking at a time.
- When the PMPAG does not reach consensus on an issue, it will report different perspectives held on the issue and the rationale behind the perspectives.

Additions to the roles and responsibilities:

- Designated members are expected to attend each meeting. In the event that a member can not attend a meeting they may send a representative of their organization as an observer.
- Observers are welcome at all PMPAG meetings but will not be seated at the table or participate in discussions.
- A time will be set aside in the agenda of each meeting for comments or questions from observers.

PMP Approach and Goals

Barbara reviewed a proposed project approach and a list of the main tasks to be accomplished on the project through December 2007. The main elements of the proposed approach include:

- Define Project Goals and Team Mission
- Project Definition (Scope Development)
- Data Collection and Assessment (qualitative/quantitative)
- Identify Needs
- Draft Plan (including project and program recommendations, implementation strategy including funding and performance measures)
- Agency and Public Review of Draft Plan
- Revise Draft Plan
- Present to Mayor and Council for Review

The main tasks proposed to be completed through December 2007 include:

- Goal Setting
- Develop Public Engagement Plan
- Review Research, Education, Evaluation Tools
- Problem Definition

- Develop Scope
- Consultant Hiring Process
- Complete Project Scope

PMPAG discussion:

- We need to identify the obstacles to achieving any of the goals of this project, and early on identify stakeholders and coordinate with agency representatives to make sure that the plan recommendations get implemented. The PMPAG needs to identify and focus on points of influence early in the process.
- Problem definition should come before project definition
- The focus should be on high level goals initially, not measurable objectives
- Discuss budget and funding mechanisms early and often
- The PMPAG needs more information on general city resources for pedestrian issues as well as information on engaging the press.

PMPAG members broke into small workgroups to review the project goals that have been described by the City:

- Get more people walking
- Reduce the number and severity of crashes involving pedestrians
- Engage citizens to define the actions needed to make Seattle a more walkable city

Each group was asked to review the draft goals and suggest revisions or additions. The small groups presented their work:

Group A

- Get more people walking: create communities that encourage and inspire people to walk in all areas of Seattle, regardless of age, ability, race, or income.
- Create communities that protect Seattleites as they walk to their daily destinations: schools, churches, restaurants, etc, impart a feeling or perception of safety.
- Establish funding/funding mechanisms/general resources that accommodate pedestrian needs. Funding should be allocated to accomplish these goals, and prioritization of funds needs to be shifted
- All departments of the city recognize pedestrian needs as a goal, and work together to achieve them.
- Shift a perspective in what our urban streets are for, what they can do for us and human health, environmental health, for social justice, and for pedestrian transportation. Moving cars through neighborhoods (“Getting Seattle Moving”) does not trump quality of life in neighborhoods

Group B

- Help public visualize Ped-centric city (see the change)
- More education about rights and responsibilities of pedestrians and drivers
- Setting good, standardized, ADA compliant design standards so spaces are used by people
- Engage public officials to support investments in pedestrian infrastructure
- Encourage and support mixed –use urban village development
- Pilot and explore shared-space development
- Improve intersection design standards so all are ADA compliant or better

Group C

- Get more people walking (diversity of people: race, handicap, neighborhoods)
- Engage Public institutions that have the ability to change policies
- Public transportation planning includes more pedestrians

- Make more data collection and information available to PMPAG members
- Define accountability for achieving our goals
- Establish measurements of achievement of goals (or non-achievement)

Group D

- Involvement and engagement of government agencies in this process and proposed solutions
- Maximize funding by identifying all existing and new possible ways to fund pedestrian infrastructure and programs.
- Evaluate previous research findings
- Lower overall speed limits citywide and enforce “slow ride”

Group E

- Better sidewalks, additional sidewalks (fill in gaps)
- Monitor and influence the final master plan
- What is our exact role in the process of developing the plan (how hands on are our roles)
- Change public opinion in regard to the hierarchy of rights – pedestrians should have the same rights
- Environmental/health – improve the sustainability of our city. Increase activity for health reasons (public health)
- Understanding the City’s role in funding or developing the regulatory mechanisms in developing a more walkable city
- How much [influence] will we have in getting the private sector to participate in making this a more walkable city of Seattle
- How do we get people to ride public transportation

Additional Comments

- Fund, facilitate and implement the Pedestrian Master Plan
- Develop a high level statement that is also an inspirational goal
- Walking is desirable and safe in neighborhoods
- Use [the plan] as a measuring stick

PMP Scope

- Compare other pedestrian plan scopes and select the best examples as a starting point
- Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board information provided early

Scheduling

- It was asked if we could alternate the times/days of PMPAG meetings to accommodate an ongoing schedule conflict for one of the PMPAG members.

Issue Updates

At the last meeting, PMPAG members were asked to submit three issue update suggestions. These suggestions will serve as the content of the issue update portion of future PMPAG meetings. Barbara Gray presented the submissions and provided opportunity for additional suggestions. The list of issue updates will be emailed to PMPAG members for prioritization.

Kick-off event

Councilmember Jan Drago and SDOT are proposing a large community event that will occur in Fall 2007, around the same time as Walk to School to Month (October). The initial idea for this event is a kick-off for a citywide walking assessment that may include walking audits, mapping and other tools. The event get neighborhood groups involved in conducting an assessment of their own community from the perspective of a pedestrian. PMPAG members expressed interest in the event, and Rebecca Dehr, Charles Redmond, and Kate Martin, volunteered to help organize the event. Amy Shuman (Public

Health) has also volunteered. Event planning will begin in early July and Barbara will schedule the first planning meeting.

For the Good of the Order

This section of the agenda was added at the suggestion of a PMPAG member to give the group an opportunity to sum up the meeting, and have some unstructured time to discuss issues of interest.

Comments were made concerning competing use of resources and how they may impede the progress of pedestrian improvements which is a top priority for the PMPAG.

Communication mechanisms between PMPAG members and members of the community were reviewed. Personal contact information of the PMPAG members is not available for public distribution. Individuals who are not members of the PMPAG and are interested in contacting specific PMPAG members can contact Barbara Gray to facilitate communication. walkandbike@seattle.gov is the email address currently used by SDOT to for pedestrian and bicycle comments.

PMPAG members agreed to take an action at the meeting related to the Neighborhood Street Fund grant program. The PMPAG passed a motion that SDOT should continue to award the grants on an annual basis for Neighborhood Street Funds rather than a three-year cycle. James Bush and Kate Martin took the assignment to draft a letter for the group to submit to the City on this issue.

It was decided that electing a chair (previously tabled by the group) would be the first item the next meeting agenda.

Lisa Herbold (staff to Councilmember Licata) presented Budget information to members of the group.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

Action Items

PMPAG

1. Review the list of issue updates. Each PMPAG member should prioritize their top three issues and submit them to Barbara Gray by July 10th.

SDOT

1. Provide the list of Issue Updates to PMPAG members so they can review and prioritize.
2. Send link to the link to the Seattle Channel viewings of the City Council Special Pedestrian Safety Committee meetings.