

Memorandum

Date: July 12, 2018

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Todd Burley, Sustainability Strategic Advisor

Subject: Multi-use Trail Pilot Proposal

Requested Board Action

Seattle Parks and Recreation seeks a recommendation from the Board of Park Commissioners in support of the Multi-Use Trail Pilot. This pilot includes three components: a 15-mph speed limit for all users, allowance for Class 1 and Class 2 electric-assisted bicycles, and an education campaign. In addition, we seek agreement with SPR's proposal for data collection, evaluation and reporting to the board.

Pilot Proposal Overview

In response to comments from the public and the Board of Park Commissioners, Seattle Parks and Recreation will implement the following Multi-Use Trail Pilot Program. This includes updated elements related to outreach, data and research, and education and enforcement.

The Multi-Use Trail Pilot Program includes three main components: a 15-mph advisory speed limit, an education and outreach campaign, and the allowance of Class 1 and Class 2 electric-assisted bicycles. The pilot will take place on five trails that Seattle Parks and Recreation has joint management responsibility for including the Burke-Gilman, Elliott Bay, Duwamish, Mountains to Sound, and Melrose Connector Trails.

Outreach and Education

SPR will work with SDOT and community partners to engage in an education and outreach campaign on trails via signage, in-person communication, media and online.

Signs

This campaign will involve using SDOT's new yard signs that highlight proper trail etiquette for all users. These will be placed along multi-use trails in the city as part of SDOT's larger education campaign on trail etiquette. In addition, SPR will produce a temporary sign for the pilot program soliciting input, which will be placed at prominent locations along the five trails in the pilot.



Outreach and Engagement

During the pilot, SPR will work with community partners and SDOT to engage with their audiences on proper trail use and to solicit input on the pilot. Partners include Cascade Bicycle Club, the Bicycle Advisory Board, Pedestrian Advisory Board, Disabilities Commission, Washington Trails Association, Friends of Burke-Gilman Trail, Seattle Neighborhood Greenways, Seattle Children’s Hospital, and local bicycle businesses. These partners will distribute information about the pilot and regulation changes, survey links, and opportunities for other input to their audiences.

SPR will also continue to engage with key stakeholder groups such as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Boards, the Commission for People with Disabilities, and neighborhood organizations along the trail routes. The outreach will include a presentation on the pilot, feedback and discussion, and an opportunity to fill out a survey when it is available.

Outreach Meetings to Date

In advance of the pilot period, SPR has met with, or presented to, the following organizations and individuals.

- Seattle City Council Sustainability and Transportation Committee (4/17/18)
- North Seattle Industrial Association (4/24/18)
- Douglas MacDonald (5/7/18)
- Seattle King County Public Health (5/24/18)
- UW School of Public Health, Professor Andrew Dannenberg (5/29/18)
- Regional Trails Steering Committee (5/30/18)
- Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (6/6/18)
- Council on Aging & Disabilities Services Advocacy Committee (6/8/18)
- Sound Steps (6/13/18)
- Washington Trails Association (6/20/18)
- Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities (6/21/18)

Additional Outreach

In addition to direct meetings, SPR sent information, an offer to present and a solicitation of input to the following organizations and businesses during May and June.

Organizations	Businesses
Cascade Bicycle Club	G&O Family Cyclery
Washington Bikes	Wright Brothers Cycle Works
Seattle Bicycle Club	Bicycle Repair Shop
Bike Works	FreeRange Cycles
The Bikery	Ride Bicycles
Washington Bike Law	Montlake Bicycle Shop
Sightline Institute	Gregg's Cycle
Cyclists of Greater Seattle	Electric Lady
Pedestrian Advisory Board	Seattle E-Bike
Seattle Neighborhood Greenways	Electric and Folding Bikes NW
Climate Solutions	Alki Bike and Board
Outdoors for All	The Bicycle Repair Shop
Husky Cycling	Seattle Cycling Tours

Organizations – continued	Businesses - continued
Feet First	Ride Bicycles
Friends of the Burke-Gilman Trail	Recycled Cycles
Washington Trails Association	Montlake Bicycle Shop
Transportation Choices Coalition	Rad Power Bikes
Undriving	
Urban Sparks	
Duwamish Valley Safe Streets	
Seattle Children's Hospital	
Outdoors for All	

Media

SPR also received interest from the local media, which helped reach a broader audience and resulted in many public comments. A press release was issued on April 19, 2018 describing the pilot proposal and seeking input from the public. This press release was also in a Parkways blog post. Media stories include a Seattle Times article (4/26), MyNorthwest (4/27), KIRO 7 (4/12), and Seattle Transit Blog (4/28). Seattle Channel recorded each presentation to the Board of Park Commissioners (available online).

Partnership Development

Seattle Parks and Recreation has been coordinating with WSDOT, SDOT, UW, King County, and the Port of Seattle to develop strong jurisdictional alignment and support for the pilot. Letters of support have been received from King County, and we have a commitment of letters from WSDOT, UW, and the Port. SDOT and SPR will sign a “letter of concurrence” that aligns with SDOT’s typical process for ensuring jurisdictional entities are working together on common properties.

Data Gathering and Research

During the pilot, SPR will work with SDOT and WSDOT to collect data and conduct research to understand how speed, use type, and education has an impact on trail use and safety. Data gathering will occur on three trails in the pilot – Elliott Bay, Burke-Gilman, and the Mountains to Sound Trail – and one trail not included in the pilot – Alki Trail – which will be used as a control.

- Trail Counters:** A key part of this data collection will involve the bicycle and pedestrian counters SDOT currently utilizes on the Burke-Gilman and Elliott Bay Trails as well as a new counter on the Alki Trail. These trail counters track usage figures only. The Alki Trail counter will be new, so will have no preexisting data to compare.
- Digital Speed Trackers:** SDOT is looking into installing a digital speed tracker onto existing poles to along the Burke-Gilman Trail to help inform users of their actual speed and to act as an education tool to reinforce the speed limit. SDOT will determine the best location for this tracker.
- Online Survey:** SPR will conduct an online survey to be shared through our outreach channels and via our partners to determine use, perception, and opinions about these trails



and the pilot project. The survey will be designed in cooperation with Professor Andy Dannenberg of the University of Washington's School of Public Health. Agency and community partners have agreed to assist in sending this survey to their networks.

In-Person Survey: SPR and SDOT will partner to conduct on-site surveys and data collection to supplement the counters and online survey. The survey would be the same as the online version and be available for outreach meetings, as well. SDOT interns will be available to conduct the surveys on targeted days and locations as determined by the recommended methodology of Professor Dannenberg. While on site, interns will also collect data on user speed (using handheld radar devices that SDOT owns) as well as user types and demographics.

Enforcement

SPR briefed the Seattle Police Department's policy unit on the Pilot. They are committed to responding to complaints from users on the trail when contacted. No dedicated resources have been committed.

Timeline

July 2018

- **Finalize survey, Pilot Program sign, press release and outreach list.**
- **Complete on-site data gathering plan with SDOT.**
- **Install trail counter at Alki Trail.**
- **Install pilot signs and SDOT informational signs.**

August 2018

- **Launch pilot August 1st.**
- **Send press release and communication to networks (8/1).**
- **Conduct online survey.**
- **Conduct intercept surveys and on-site data gathering.**

September/October 2018

- **Conduct second round of intercept surveys and on-site data gathering.**
- **Conduct focus group meetings with key stakeholders.**

November 2018 - May 2019

- **Continue passive data collection.**

June 2019

- **Conduct third round of intercept surveys and on-site data gathering.**
- **Complete SEPA checklist.**

July 2019

- **Conduct online survey.**
- **Conduct focus group meetings with key stakeholders.**
- **Public comment period for SEPA checklist.**

August 2019

- **Pilot concludes 8/1/19.**
- **Complete evaluation and develop recommendation to present to Board of Park Commissioners.**