

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee

January 29, 2015 Minutes

Attendees

Members: Ashley Rhead (Seattle Dept. of Transportation), Richard Staudt (Seattle Public Schools), Brian Dougherty (Seattle Dept. of Transportation), Jen Cole (citizen rep), Cathy Tuttle (Seattle Neighborhood Greenways), Shannon Koller (Cascade Bicycle Club).

Other Attendees and Presenters: Teresa Frizzell (Feet First),

Public Attendees: Lee Bruch (Licton Springs Greenways Volunteer), Susie Bunke, (Thornton Creek Parent), Robin Randalls (Cascade Bicycle Club and Greenways Volunteer)

Public Comment: See notes below for contributions regarding the field trip observations and traffic safety concerns for the Thornton Creek campus.

December Minutes: Approved

Field Trip: The group met at 90th and Aurora to observe Aurora Avenue crossings at 90th and 92nd. We proceeded east to view the approach to the school campus currently under construction. With guidance and input from Community Member Lee Bruch, the committee considered the campus circulation plan and focused particular attention on options for pedestrians to across 90th St directly in front of the campus. **Please see two attached documents, provided by Lee Bruch, for a visual of the area and circulation plan issues.**

The group debriefed at a café. Per Lee Bruch, speaking for the Licton Springs Greenways group, the main points of concern that the group wants to bring to the attention of this committee are:

1. Speed control on Wallingford and 90th
2. Safer crossings at 90th between Stone and Wallingford
3. Crossing guard location assignments
4. Include parent pick-up/drop-off zones along 90th
5. Improve safety at 90th and Aurora

The group discussed 92nd Street as a proposed greenway, and whether or not that would make 92nd a preferred crossing over 90th. Looking at the time required for the greenways process (at least 2 years to seek funding and approval, with additional time for planning and construction), this is not practical option for the opening of the schools. The immediate request is for SDOT to have a signal engineer look for pedestrian safety improvements at 90th and Aurora.

ACTION: Brian Dougherty to pursue SDOT signal engineering attention at 90th and Aurora

The group also observed and discussed several locations along the Aurora field trip route where cars parked in commercial lots were encroaching over the sidewalks. Robin Randalls requests that this committee work to help with the enforcement of this issue.

ACTION: Ashley Rhead to put enforcement on agenda for next meeting and discuss with Richard O'Neill about appropriate SPD person to attend

Approval of December Minutes and Review of Action Items

December minutes were approved as submitted.

- Teresa will send out link from last month's meeting
- Shannon has been moving forward on the hands-up tally with Lori Dunn. This conversation will continue.
- Wedgwood Elementary has gotten a response to help resolve the issue about bicycle entry at the far side of the playground. Shannon will go the school to ground truth that entrance soon.

ACTION: Ashley Rhead to keep hands-up tally discussions with Lori Dunn on next month's agenda. Shannon Koller to report back.

School Concern: Thornton Creek

Susie Bunke joined the meeting to share concerns about the Thornton Creek Elementary campus, currently under construction and due to open in Fall 2016. She has been a parent at this school for 10 years, and is concerned about the traffic and safety impacts expected when the campus expands from 220 students to more than 900 students. In addition to the new school building, there will be a Special Education preschool on the campus and all-day childcare sharing the 9-acre site. In particular, the intersection of 40th Ave and 80th St is concerning because of the size of the streets, the arterial speeds, and the addition of school bus and parent vehicular traffic. Safety at this intersection is a priority concern for the Thornton Creek parent group, many of whom have been volunteering to enforce safe community norms among the parents who drive there today. An additional issue is that school bus #933 from Meadowbrook is no longer running for students at this school, which seems to have resulted in more single-family traffic in the area.

Brian reports that SDOT plans to install curb bulbs on 40th Ave at 77th and 80th Streets.

There was much discussion about funding for improvements around the perimeter of the campus, and whether or not they could be covered by the capital project funds. Brian explains that the code does not require it, and project managers prioritize putting every dollar into the school building itself. Several alternative options were discussed, which would work if the neighborhood group were to pursue grant funding. These options include:

1. Neighborhood Park and Street Fund (up to 90k)

2. Large Neighborhood Street Fund (coming up in May)
3. Department of Neighborhood Matching Fund (appropriate if any funds are raised locally within the school community)

ACTION: Brian Dougherty to send SRTS Toolbox to Susie Bunke

We also discussed the possibility of a crossing guard at 40th and 80th, but looking citywide, it is unlikely that this intersection will rank as high as others for guard placement. We will know for certain soon, as SDOT has recently completed a speed study that included 40th Ave.

Brian says he is optimistic that SDOT can survey the block around the school for proper parking signage.

School Concern – Dearborn Park

Richard reports that another parent complaint has come in regarding the arrival and departure procedures at this school. The situation is indeed problematic, as witnessed by Jen late last year. This parent will be encouraged to coordinate with Principal Bogan, as the school has been given a circulation plan and communications plan that have not yet been implemented.

ACTION: Teresa Frizell to go through Feet First files and share circulation plan, communications plan, and other pertinent materials with Richard, who will forward them to the parent.

City of Seattle Boards and Commission On-boarding Sessions

There is a new orientation for anyone who volunteers on a City board or committee. A few sessions are scheduled for February and March. Members of this committee are encouraged to attend.

ACTION: Ashley Rhead to share dates and agendas with committee members

Crossing Guard updates

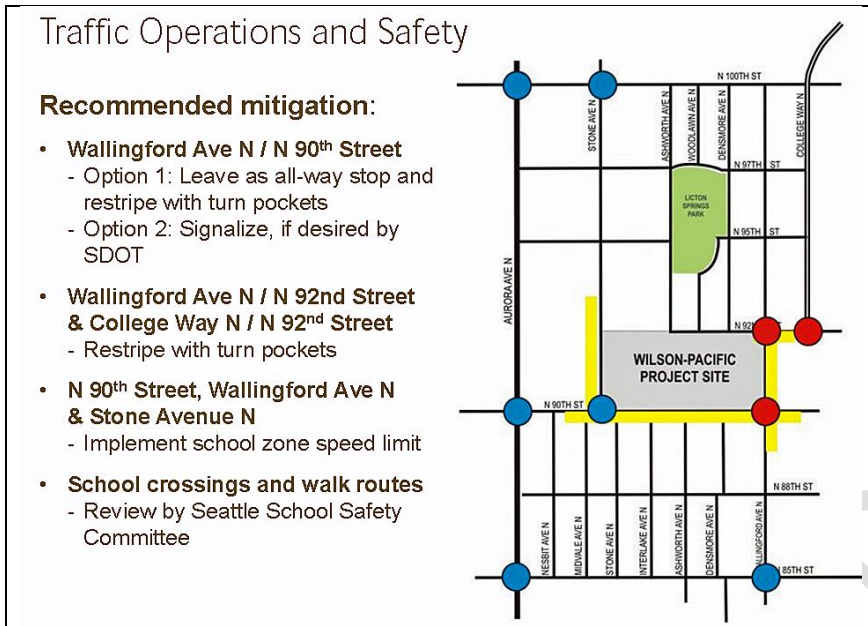
This item tabled to next month.

Future Topics and Announcements

- Stop paddle cameras: SPS and County discussion update
- Cathy Tuttle proposes that we discuss the 20/25 Legislation about engineering and speed control.

10:30am Adjourn

B. ADJACENT TO THE SCHOOLS



Heffron submitted the adjacent diagram (Figure 6) to the Department of Planning & Development as part of the approved application for code departures.

It summarizes some of the most important issues immediately adjacent to the schools.

Figure 7, below, is the site plan for the schools and the immediate neighborhood. It is cross-referenced to the following report.

See Appendix 1 for a larger more detailed site plan

Figure 6 – Recommended Improvements Adjacent to the Schools ⁷

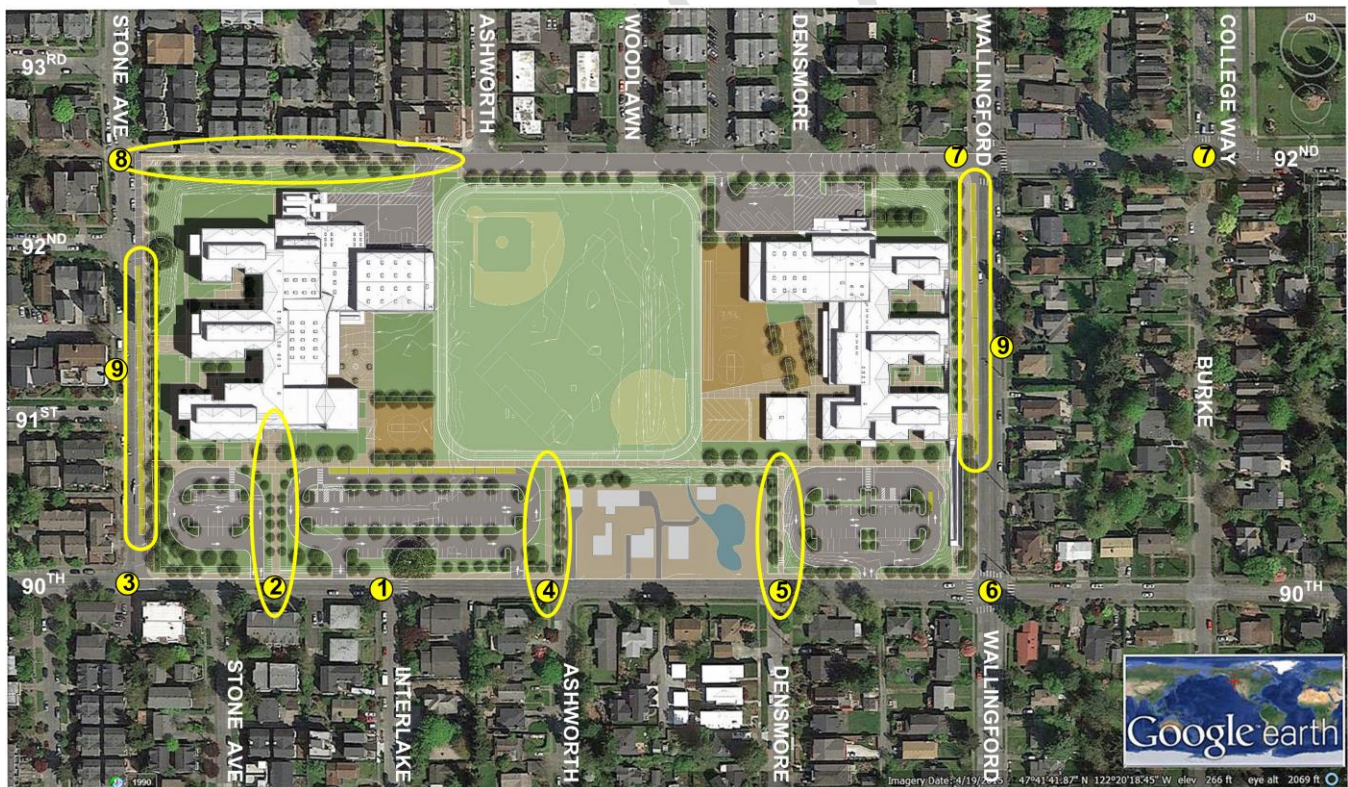
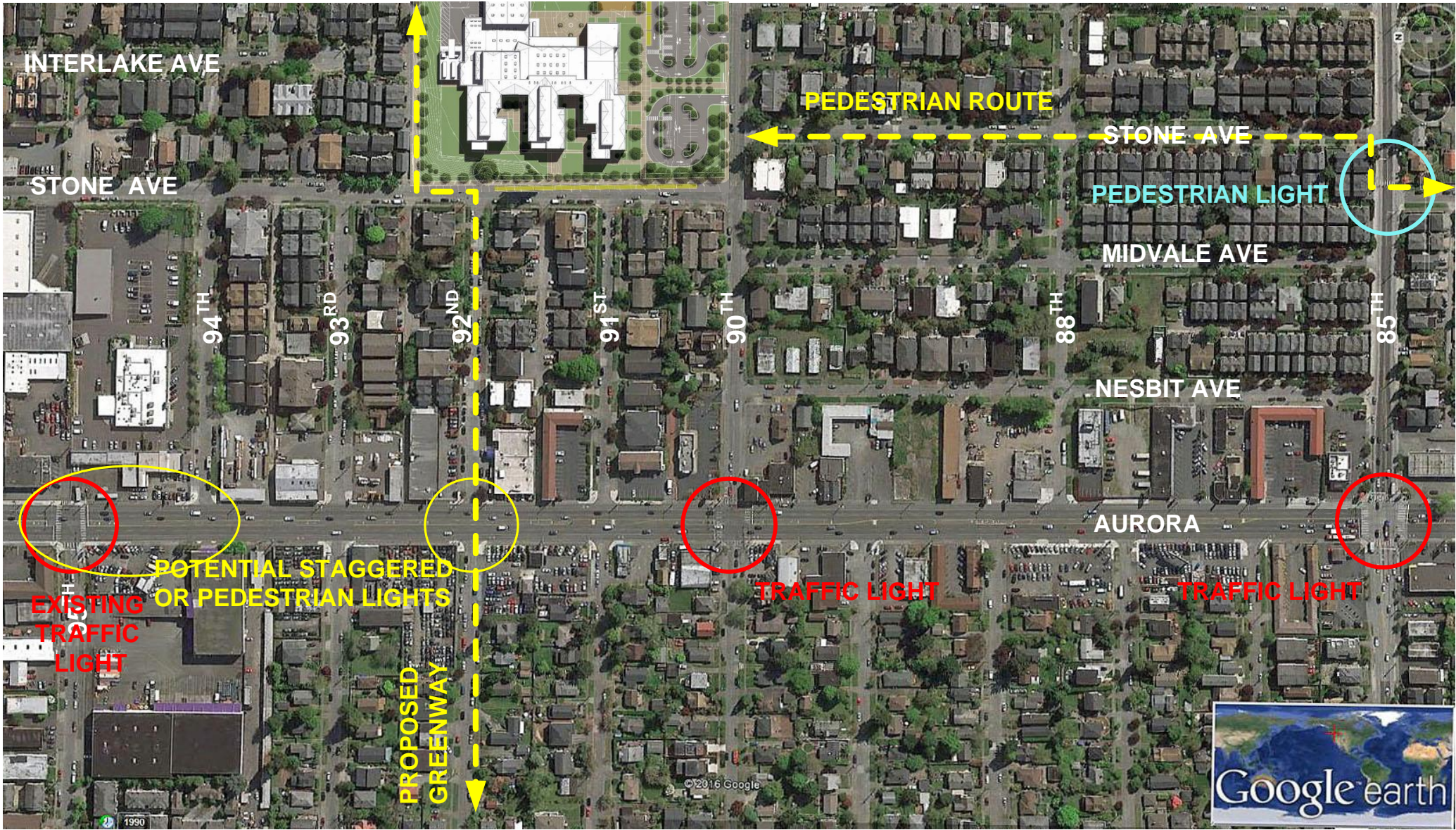


Figure 7 – School Site Plan ⁸

⁷ (Heffron Transportation Inc., May 28, 2014)

⁸ (Seattle Public Schools; 2016) Note: The school plan is from the school's website. It is superimposed on a Google Earth view of the neighborhood and reference marks have been added.



INTERLAKE AVE

STONE AVE

PEDESTRIAN ROUTE

STONE AVE

PEDESTRIAN LIGHT

MIDVALE AVE

94TH

93RD

92ND

91ST

90TH

88TH

85TH

NESBIT AVE

AURORA

POTENTIAL STAGGERED
OR PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS

EXISTING
TRAFFIC
LIGHT

PROPOSED
GREENWAY

TRAFFIC LIGHT

TRAFFIC LIGHT

