

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

January 14, 2015 Minutes

Attendees

Members: David Goldberg, Jacob Struiksma, Devor Barton, Ninona Boujrada, Joanne Donohue, Lydia Heard, Lorena Kaplan, Paul Muldoon, Bevin Wong

Public Attendees: Paul Constant, Thomas Noble, Craig Shumate, Adam Dodge,

Other Attendees and presenters: Howard Wu, Jennifer Wieland, Art Brochet, Erich Ellis, Tri Ong, Brian Jeplage, Barbara Gray Scott Redmond (Sellen Construction), Leona Warner (Sellen Construction)

Public Comment: none

December minutes:

Approved.

Trees & Sidewalks Operations Plan Update

Jennifer Wieland, SDOT

- There is no specific ask of the board at this time. This presentation is for information sharing.
- The purpose of this project is to figure out the best ways to address conflict between trees, other structures, infrastructure, etc. They are taking a broad look, starting at the beginning with tools and options available for people to utilize.
- Four goals of the plan: access & health, environment, equity and efficiency.
- They looked at best practices for this work at the national, international and local levels. At the same time they started digging into decision making process and determined they needed to document and it.
- Three corridor studies were completed. One example they looked at was in the Madrona neighborhood. There's a trolley route with overhead lines and power, older/narrow sidewalks, very established trees and it's in the heart of the business districts. To start they evaluated the tree health and get an ADA accessible walkway. Each tree was given a yes, no or maybe rating. Then they looked at each solution option: prune roots, have a different sidewalk tree, amend soil, remove tree because of bad health, etc.
- Lydia: Is there a plan to replace one tree at a time, or more? How do you phase if lots of trees need to be removed? A: Didn't specify a timeline or process because funding isn't there. Has a prioritized plan to implement when funds are available.
- David: Rent personal experience: In his neighborhood a tree has displaced the sidewalk. Someone painted it white and put a sidewalk closed sign. Was the city responsible? A: Typically they paint to make it visible and they patch, or grind it down to make it less severe. The sign is rare. If you send Jennifer the address she'll look into it.
- David: How did you determine these intensive case studies? A: The corridors were chosen because they represented a variety of conditions and it was a good way to test the tools in context. They hope it makes it replicable.
- Jacob: What are we doing about tree pits? New trees on 45th with branches too low. We need to have maintenance. A: Did not tackle tree limbs/maintenance in this plan because they were focused on the ground level only. Looking at ways to increase maintenance and working with property owners to take responsibility for their own. It's rare we have resources to fix an entire corridor at once. That'd be the ideal way to tackle the work, but currently they're doing it one piece at a time.
- Lorena: Which objectives of the Pedestrian Master Plan does this project touch on? A: Entire 2.3 objective.

- Joanne: Going forward when new sidewalk is being laid will this come into play? A: yes.
- Joanne: Will homeowners be able to access these resources? A: Yes, the solution toolbox can be used by individuals, developers, city, etc.

Action Items:

- Board is encouraged to look through the Action Items and Solutions Toolkit portion online.
- Public comment open through Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Renton Avenue S AAC (Arterial Asphalt Concrete)

Art Brochet, Erich Ellis, Tri Ong; SDOT

- Renton Avenue repaving is being done because 10% was in poor condition, 10% in very poor condition and 10% in fair condition.
- Paving backlog is getting worse. Over 35% of roads are in poor or worse condition which is a jump of 10% in the last three years.
- Street maintenance is the project sponsor. Two phase project that splits at 51st Ave NE, north end first (S. Holden to 51st), construction will occur in 2015. Phase 2 is planned in 2016 but there's no funding. Phase 1 scope includes: 50+ ADA ramps, 6 new curb bulbs, new pedestrian signals at Kenyon, Cloverdale, Henderson and there's an art element in the crosswalk.
- Jacob: Henderson/Renton Ave. intersection is not safe. A: noted.
- David: Is design result of community engagement? A: Yes. Community was looking for something to draw attention to the intersection.
- Lydia: What material will the art element be done in? A: Stencil and durable paint mix that will last 7 yrs. Stencil will be kept so it can be maintained.
- Jacob: What's the condition of the sidewalk? A: In the 2.8 miles there are some problems. Not a lot of trees, so not a lot of uprooting of sidewalks.
- Lydia: One intersection has drainage issues. How do you deal with that? A: Wherever there are bulb outs we add drainage bins and add water quality boxes that filter the run off. It's a local fix, no infrastructure changes.
- Davis: So AAC is a line item out of Bridging the Gap? A: For 2014 it's \$14-\$15 million from levy and other grants. Every project in AAC goes through complete streets and then a budget is put together.
- David: If money comes from levy, this is the opportunity to add complete streets specifically into the new levy.
- David: How did the complete streets review play out? A: If tier 1 is identified they're brought to the director level, so curb ramps are included in AAC. Side walk maintenance, street trees, bulb outs, bike lane—come from somewhere else. We'd rather have funding defined.
- David: What did we leave on the table as a result? A: Pedestrian lighting was removed.
- Phase 2: Relocating push buttons to make more accessible and construct ADA curb ramps.
- Outreach and Engagement: Held open houses in March (they included other projects like Safe Routes to Schools, etc.).
- David: Anything we have in the cue for Rainier Corridor Safety Improvements? A: No, but we can.
- David: Consideration of curb cuts means...? How does it impact drainage if some business driveways aren't up to code? A: Eric sits on ADA committee so it's helpful to hear how ADA guidelines affect pedestrians. Paving projects often bring up ADA ramps being installed. New city of Seattle requires verbal message on all new pedestrian walk signs. Moving forward verbal cues will be "walk Renton" or "walk Rainier." High priority for projects is to have one ramp for each crossing and for them to be perpendicular to the streets.
- Jacob: Which crossings are those with new bulbs? A: S. Rose Street, S. Rose Court, S. Barton Street

- Lydia: Are there other issues around driveway curb cuts? A: one challenge, corner property might have old driveways on both sides (not on this project).
- Joanne: What is an offset T intersection? A: T coming in, T coming out 100' next to it like on Rose Street.
- Eric: Any ideas for what SDOT should consider? Board feedback: more square/perpendicular intersections, removing poles from walkways, signs in brail or talking, curb ramps not diagonal, solid ground on bottom of signs, more curb ramps in city, more sidewalks, maintaining sidewalks, more design changes that regulate arterial speeds better.
- Joanne: When you're on a project with ADA standards with power poles do you have the authority to move those? A: yes. Transportation takes priority. We try to be proactive and coordinate with City Light and try to be aware of overall city costs. ADA compliance is not negotiable.
- Jacob: Lots of guide wires come vertically down into the sidewalk (like on 12th and Jackson), why does this happen? A: I don't know the best way to fix at this point. When we have a new project, we'll address it.
- Devor: A request along the corridor, there's a lot of overgrown vegetation at north end of sidewalk and only 1' of it is passible. It'd be nice if we could reclaim the sidewalk during this project.
- Art: Full Rainier corridor or south end? A: Entire corridor including MLK.

Action Items:

- Schedule Rainier Corridor Safety Improvement update.—Howard

5th Avenue Construction Hub (Sellen Construction)

Scott Redmond, President Sellen Construction

- We're doing outreach to figure out how to make pedestrian and bike access easier around our construction sites. We're challenged in trying to maintain safety, schedule deliveries, etc. I'm here to find out what works? What doesn't? How can we improve? Here to listen and share what we're doing to hopefully be a better neighbor.
- Lydia: 5th and Madison sometimes is a guarded walkway in the street but then other times I've seen it closed for deliver? Does that vary, why? A: Pedestrian access happens during rush hour/commuter times and is closed in the middle of the day for deliveries.
- Jacob: I don't like it.
- Lydia: At least it's open at some point. It's not ideal but its appropriate effort.
- Lydia: In Belltown the covered access has been working well.
- Paul: Does the city not have guidelines or examples for when covered walkways are used instead of closing sidewalks? A: From a safety standpoint it's always better to do a covered walkway, but sometimes they have to have access for deliveries. There is a director's rule that outlines which sidewalks should remain for use, which varies by construction phase. We're looking into ways to communicate what's coming well in advance.
- Jacob: A better process for getting equipment in/out of sites. Using alley's for example. Also my cane goes underneath things. It'd be nice to have a board in place on the ground. A: Good to know about and we'll get a team starting to think about it.
- Jacob: Make it very clear that it's closed. A solid barrier on the ground so it's clear to everyone.
- Paul: Are there specific city guidelines you follow on a closure? A: During the budget and schedule decisions they include these in the design process.
- Jacob: Is removing parking to allow for walkway an option? A: We meet weekly with all contractors where a bunch of projects are happening nearby to course correct what is happening with the traffic around all of our sites. Sometimes that's an option, sometimes not.

- Lydia: Is there a different permitting process when impacting different modes? Like closing a parking lane? A: Before a project starts a master plan is approved by SDOT and will change over time, but agreed upon pedestrian access happens ahead of time.
- David: Has the city been helpful? If you need to close a parking lane do they let you? A: Yes. Done a great job managing all the competing demands.
- Lorena: You should consider looking into crime statistics when closing or redirecting pedestrians.

Action Items:

- Contact Scott directly if you have any additional feedback.

Board updates:

- There's a memorial walk on 2/17, 2 p.m. at 5th & Pike to remember the pedestrian who was killed.
- Jacob is on this month for follow-up.
- Joanne had a note to have a curb space update in February, but that seems early. Howard will check and see when would be good to bring her back.
- Lydia: Bridge the Gap will expire at the end of this year and they kicked off Move Seattle last month which will replace this. Feb. 17 there is a state of the city address which will help inform.
- Howard: Committee will design replacement funding and will integrate all modal plans and come up with a ten year plan and operational planning budget. They will identify 5 large goals. Is anyone interested on being on the committee? Jacob, Paul, David and Lydia are interested. Hannah is willing to present to the board about this mid-April.
- Howard: We're now openly recruiting for new members for this board.
- David: Attended a vision zero meeting which is hoping to change the way of thinking about transportation and prioritize human health and safety ahead of moving people from point A to B. New York has adopted and seen improvements. There's an event on Feb. 12, 3_4pm at 1st and Pike to unveil initiative. Lorena: Is this related to target zero that King County Task Force is working on? A: not sure.
- Lorena: Is Scott Kubly coming to a meeting? A: Howard hasn't heard back from him office. Feb. agenda would be idea. If not, maybe a contingency of our group meets with him outside of our meeting time.

Motion to adopt board work plan.

Approved

Action Items:

- Wrap up the annual report and circulate for approval via email.—David
- When we send the annual report to the Council, Kubly, etc. include our work plan with it. — David
- Schedule Scott Kubly for an upcoming meeting.—Howard

8:10 Adjourn