

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 5, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall Room 370 and Virtual via Microsoft Teams
SBAB Chair: Donna McBain Evans (interim)
Recorders: Simon Blenski, SDOT

Bicycle Advisory Board Members Present:

Seat	Members	Present	Absent
		✓	X
1	Yasir Alfarag		X
2	Max Green		X
3	Jose Nino	✓	
4	Andrea Lai, Secretary	✓	
5	Ty Bottorff	✓	
6	Doug Midgen	✓	
7	Donna McBain Evans	✓	
8	Christine Stawitz	✓	
9	Quinn Kelly	✓	
10	Peter Bryan	✓	
11	Joseph Roberts	✓	
12	Vacant, Get Engaged Member		X

Meeting Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by interim SBAB Chair Donna McBain Evans.

Public Comment:

- None

Presentations:

RapidRide J Line

Darrell Bulmer and Garth Merrill, SDOT

- Presentation attached
- Discussion:
 - Joseph: I was struck by the overwhelming community desire to add the bike lane buffer south of the University Ave Bridge. What is SDOT planning to do with that feedback?
 - Garth: We plan to include a buffer in the final design.
 - Jose: At the Fairview intersection, did you consider raising the bike lane so vehicles have to slow down and bikes have the priority?
 - Garth: The four options we looked at were operational. Raising the crossing is a design option we can look at once we select the operations and signal phasing.

- Jose: And to confirm, when bikes have a green light at Fairview, cars would not be able to turn across the path of bikes?
 - Garth: Yes.
- Pete: I have two areas of concern: First is at Harvard where a lot of bikes turn to connect to get up to Capital Hill. Are there any accommodations for that turn?
 - Garth: Our main graphic does not show it well, but you can look on the roll plot or our smaller graphic in the upper right of the slide. Southbound bikes wanting to turn at Harvard will stay right through the intersection. There is a bike box and signal crossing to access Harvard. This is an all ages and abilities design and more confident cyclists can still merge out into the vehicle lanes and use the left turn lane.
- Pete: My other area of concern is where parking is being added. The parking is close to driveways, and I worry about the visibility of cyclists. I have had bad experiences along Dexter where there are parking and driveways. Can you provide more clearance or signalization?
 - Garth: I'm not sure about signalization, but we have standards for bike lane design and clearances. That was one of the controlling factors we considered when we evaluated where we could put parking in the first place. Also, important to consider that if we don't have short-term parking or loading options then it will be more likely that cars will stop in bike lanes.
- Christine: I'm curious why a community survey was used to select these design options, versus a more data driven process?
 - Darrell: The survey is one way for the community provide feedback, but it is not a final decision. We are also leaning heavily on the expertise of our own design team.
- Joseph: Thanks for the presentation. I love the project. I still have some questions about design details and the experience of someone traveling along the length of the corridor. Where are the pinch points and how sensitive are the signals to bikes?
 - Garth: I know the bike lane generally meets our design standards, but I can check with design team to see if there are any points that are narrower. I will also need to check about the signals. Since Eastlake is the main street, it is typically green unless cross traffic triggers the signal. Therefore, bikes should be able to ride along Eastlake without stopping much. But we are making several signal upgrades with the project, and I can check about improvements for bikes.
- Doug: On N 34th St between the Fremont Bridge and Stone Way, the new bike lane has issues and is always full of debris. I often need to ride in the road to avoid the debris. I'm sharing that because I think there is a lot of lessons learned from previous projects. Is the project team using those lessons learned?
 - Darrell: We are open to making changes and adjusting projects. For example, along the new 15th Ave NE bike lane, we received feedback about some issues near Lake City Way and are already planning to make some changes.
 - Garth: A lesson learned that we are folding into this project is all the options for crossing at NE 43rd St. The design options were informed by other locations in the city. Also moving the bike lane to left side north of NE 43rd St is a lesson learned. Along Roosevelt Way NE, the existing bike lane is on the right side which creates conflicts with transit. Therefore, we are building the new 11th Ave NE bike lane on the left side where we can.
- Doug: Are you considering something other than paint and post separation?

- Garth: Yes. We know there is a desire, but we have not decided yet. A decision will be informed by design and cost.
- Doug: I also have concerns about e-bikes and large speed differential. That is a general issue we have shared with other projects. I hope your team is thinking about that.
 - Garth: We are thinking about that. Thank you.

Seattle Transportation Plan

Jonathan Lewis, SDOT

- Presentation attached
- Discussion:
 - Pete: The data has shown that we have failed on our Vision Zero goals and our emissions goals. How will this plan be different and allow us to be successful?
 - Jonathan: That is a big question. Our goals are big, but we are trying really hard and establishing performance metrics for the plan to measure success. Council has asked us to come up with a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) target which is new for Seattle and many other cities. The Climate Action Plan put out a 20% VMT reduction goal, but we think we will have to go further than that.
 - Quinn: Thanks for your presentation. I think the online portal is really user friendly and appreciate all the opportunities to provide feedback. I wanted to say that I think it's good that you have called out mobility justice, but curious how the plan is addressing the suburbanization of poverty and displacement. How can we support people on the outskirts of the city and living outside Seattle?
 - Jonathan: That's another big question. We are using our Transportation Equity Framework to help us think about this. For example, if you're in a transit desert and you don't have a car, that is a big issue. Another issue is affordability of the transportation system. That is why we are focusing on lower-cost options such as walking, biking, transit.
 - Joseph: I'm new to the board, but it feels like this plan is "one hand clapping". Most of the goals are unachievable without land use changes. How are you thinking about the land use issues?
 - Jonathan: The good news is that the City is concurrently updating its Comprehensive Plan and our planning effort is in sync with theirs. They are thinking about a whole range of land use topics and are focusing on affordability and displacement.
 - Donna: I'm also new to the board, and this seems like a huge topic. Can we work with Simon to find out how to provide input and have you come back some time?
 - Jonathan: Yes, I can stay in touch with Simon. We hope to have draft network maps to share with the public at another joint workshop, so we can reach out around then.

Public Comments:

- None

Board Business:

- Appointment update
 - Simon:

- Welcome to all the new members. You were officially appointed by Council last week. All the new members are here tonight, except for Max. He should be joining us next month.
 - We are also waiting for a new Get Engaged member to be appointed, hopefully by November or December.
 - If you have any questions or feedback as we move forward, please do hesitate to reach out to me or other board members.
- Board communications
 - Simon:
 - All our meetings adhere do the Open Public Meetings Act and any gathering or communication with seven or more members (quorum) must follow those rules, including advanced notice, having a venue accessible to the public, time for public comment, etc.
 - You are welcome to meet or communicate in small groups, but just be mindful that you are not meeting quorum.
 - By now, all of you should have access to the Google Group. That is where I send monthly agendas and other board communications.
- Leadership opportunities: Co-chairs and Levy Oversight Committee rep
 - Simon:
 - With many new members we are looking for new co-chairs and a rep on the Levy Oversight Committee (LOC).
 - First, thanks to Donna for facilitating tonight's meeting. The chair's role is to run and facilitate meetings each month. There is also a planning meeting with me before each meeting to set the agendas. Having two co-chairs is nice because it allows the meeting facilitation to be shared and more perspectives to be included as agendas are being planned. Being a chair also means you are sometimes a spokesperson for the board if the board gets media inquires or needs to collaborate with other boards.
 - The other position is a representative on the LOC. The LOC oversees the Levy to Move Seattle, which is currently the main transportation funding source for the city and the primary funding source for bike projects. The LOC is tasked with monitoring the progress of spending and project delivery. The group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 5-7PM, typically the day before our meetings. Max, who is not here tonight, expressed interest in this role, but we can discuss more next month and see if others are interested.
 - I don't think you are all ready to nominate and vote on these positions tonight, but I will provide more time on the November agenda to discuss. For the board to be effective, I think it is important to have someone in these positions by November, or December at the latest.
 - If you have any questions about these roles, please reach out before the November meeting.
 - Joseph: Can we have more than one representative on the LOC?
 - Simon: Yes, but only one can attend and vote at a time. Having two reps can take the burden off attending more meetings, however I think it is important to have continuity and no more than two reps since there is a lot of reporting back and forth between the LOC and SBAB.
- Approval of September meeting minutes:

- Doug: I have a minor change. At the September meeting. I did not mean to say that no one at SDOT bikes and request that it be removed from the final minutes.
- Donna: Thanks, Doug. I think we can accommodate that. Does anyone want to make a motion to approve the September minutes with that change.
- Joseph: Move to delete Doug's comments and to approve the September minutes.
- Donna: Second
- All: Approve
- Future agenda items:
 - Simon: On deck we'll have an intro from our new SDOT Director, Greg Spotts. Still working on other agenda items.
- Announcements:
 - None

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 by SBAB Chair Donna McBain Evans.