

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 7, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall Room 370 and Virtual via Microsoft Teams
SBAB Chair: Patrick Taylor
Recorders: Simon Blenski, SDOT

Bicycle Advisory Board Members Present:

| Seat | Members | Present | Absent |
|------|--------------------------|---------|--------|
| | | ✓ | X |
| 1 | Yasir Alfarag | ✓ | |
| 2 | Vacant | | |
| 3 | Jose Nino | ✓ | |
| 4 | Andrea Lai, Secretary | ✓ | |
| 5 | Vacant | | |
| 6 | Doug Midgen | ✓ | |
| 7 | Andrew Dannenberg | ✓ | |
| 8 | Meredith Hall | ✓ | |
| 9 | Vacant | | |
| 10 | Patrick Taylor, Co-Chair | ✓ | |
| 11 | Vacant | | |
| 12 | Vacant | | |

Meeting Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by SBAB Chair Patrick Taylor

Public Comment:

- None

Presentations:

Mayor's Office Update

Adiam Emery, Executive General Manager

- Adiam:
 - Before my currently role, I worked as a civil engineer in SDOT for 20+ years. Most recently at SDOT I lead the Transportation Operations Division.
 - During my time with SDOT we made a lot of improvements such as changing the city-wide speed limit on arterials to 25 mph, creating a pedestrian signal policy, and kicking of the Seattle Transportation Plan (STP).
 - The Mayor's Office is leading with Vision Zero, prioritizing vulnerable users, and advancing walking, biking, and transit.
 - For the STP, we are looking at corridors where there are overlapping modes and there is competition for the limited right-of-way. We are thinking about how to prioritize different modes on those streets.

- Today is also the first day for the new director, Greg Spotts and we are working with him to lift up Vision Zero and the development of the STP.
- I look forward to working with you and other modal boards and having you all meet Greg.
- Discussion:
 - Doug: I follow big picture policy discussions and we seem to be headed in the right direction for bikes. However, there are a lot of little issues that add up and it doesn't seem like there's anyone in charge of biking at the city. Has anyone ever thought of having a "bike czar" or someone who oversees all bike issues?
 - Adiam: The modal plans are the guiding principles for all transportation issues and that guides SDOT's work. The STP is really going to help with the prioritization of different streets and looking at that through an equity lens.
 - Meredith: Doug, over my four years on the board, I've learned that SDOT staff that work on these projects are passionate and doing great work. That's not to say there is still a lot of work to do.
 - Patrick: I also want to note that there is a point person at SDOT, Hallie O'Brien who oversees the implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan. We will get a presentation from Hallie later in this meeting.
 - Meredith: I'm a little troubled that you framed the STP as competition for space. It seems like we should lead with the safety and mobility of people. We should aim for that and then understand what we need to do to get there from a design perspective.
 - Adiam: We are leading with vulnerable users including pedestrians and transit. Also need to think about freight which has not been prioritized over the years. With the plan, we are trying to lift all modes and understand how the right-of-way should be used, while designing for the most vulnerable users. That is why the pedestrian signal policy focused on comfort for people walking and not delay to vehicles.
 - Patrick: I think Mayor Harrell did a lot of damage during the campaign when said he will "not lead with bikes." And shortly after being elected, he removed the previous director who we had a good working relationship with as a board. So, with that, I'm curious where does Mayor Harrell stand on bikes?
 - Adiam: Yes, we support bikes as part of a well-rounded solution. We also really need to elevate freight and center everything around vulnerable users.
 - Yasir: Is there a push to undo harm on the worst streets like Rainier Ave S. We keep hearing about people dying on these streets. What are you doing about that?
 - Adiam: One of the first things our new director, Greg will do is evaluate the whole Vision Zero program. We need to understand what we are doing right and what we are doing wrong.
 - Yasir: I'm surprised we have not evaluated these corridors yet? Do we not know yet why crashes are happening?
 - Adiam: We do know, but the pandemic has changed a lot. Speed has always been a factor, but vehicle speeds have increased a lot during the pandemic. We are also asking if Olympia has an appetite for automated enforcement? We do know the issues and have made improvements, but we also need understand the appropriate tools to address the issues.

- Doug: I like the idea of automated enforcement or more speed bumps. Another way to consider how safe the city is by asking what portion of the city's streets are safe for kids to bike? Probably not a lot.
 - Adiam: Good point. We can think more about that and evaluate our Healthy Streets program which focused on improving residential streets.
- Pete: You mentioned that the STP will elevate many modes. Will the STP deprioritize any modes, especially cars? I don't want us to nibble at edges to overcome 100 years of prioritizing cars.
 - Adiam: Yes, by prioritizing biking, walking, and transit you are essentially deprioritizing car capacity.
- Patrick: Thanks for coming, we hope you will come back with more updates for the board, and we look forward to meeting Greg.

BMP Implementation Plan Update

Hallie O'Brien, SDOT

- Presentation attached
- Discussion:
 - Pete: I appreciate all the new projects, but do these plans also consider maintenance?
 - Hallie: Yes, we have a maintenance program, including a new bike lane sweeper. You can also submit maintenance requests to Find It, Fix it.
 - Pete: A lot of projects drop people off at not great places, like at Rainier Ave S. Are you looking at ways to make better connections?
 - Hallie: We are working to make logical connections and not give up at the intersection. But overall, it is still a piece-by-piece development of the network.
 - Doug: Use of scooters and e-bikes are all increasing. It's a big deal and we can get caught off guard. What are we doing about that?
 - Hallie: For those users, the STP will think about big picture policy and design updates. At the project-level we are thinking about the design of bike lanes and how we can accommodate different speeds.
 - Patrick: Are there risk to any of these projects? And what is the status of MLK south of Rainier Ave S?
 - Funding runs out in 2024 with the Levy, but we are working on our next funding package. Hopefully, there is room for that section of MLK that on the next funding package.
 - Yasir: Can you tell us more about the status of the Eastlake PBL? We heard it may not be a continuous PBL and be only paint and post.
 - Hallie: The type of separation is dependent on their funding, but I know they are at least considering some curb.
 - Simon: The RapidRide J project team will be attending in October, and they can provide more updates then.
 - Patrick: How will the project list of the next levy be developed?
 - Hallie: That is a good question. I'm not exactly sure, but there will be public outreach process. Projects will also be informed by the STP.

Public Comments:

- Karen Wolfe: Rainier Ave S from 57th Ave S to the Renton city limits, seems to have been ignored over the years. The bike lane is always filled with debris, and it is a horrible mess. It is the only

flat connection to Renton for bikes. I don't need an answer today but want it to be addressed at some point.

Board Business:

- Approval of August meeting minutes:
 - Andrea: Move to approve
 - Andy: Second
 - All: Approve
- Levy Oversight Committee Update:
 - Patrick: We do not have current representation on the Levy Oversight Committee but I want to put a plug in for new members. It is an important Committee with decides how Levy funding is prioritized. Generally, the group has been very supportive of biking, walking, and transit and is important that we continue to have representation.
- Appointment Update
 - Simon: The Mayor's Office and Council Member Pederson's office have provided recommendations for six of seven new members, and they are on track for confirmation by the October meeting. Donna, Pete, and Ty are here tonight, but I'll send an email out to the whole board with introducing everyone.
- Future agenda items:
 - Patrick: At the October meeting it would be good to set aside time for longer introductions to meet all the new members.
 - Simon: Also on deck is an intro from new SDOT director, Greg Spotts, a STP update, and update from the RapidRide J Line project.
- Announcements:
 - Simon: I sent out an email, but just a reminder there is the upcoming STP workshop #2 on September 27. It will be in-person only this time. If you are interested, please RSVP by September 21.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 by SBAB Chair Patrick Taylor.