

October 20th, 2025

TO: SDOT Interim Director Adiam Emery
Mayor Bruce Harrell and Deputy Mayor Farrel
Chief Public Safety Officer Walton-Anderson
Councilmember Dan Strauss,

Subject: Fix the Burke-Gilman — Hazardous Crosswalk Conditions on the Trail

We, the Seattle Bike Advisory Board (SBAB), write to encourage the expedient repair and maintenance of a crucial segment of the Burke-Gilman Trail as it pertains to hazardous crosswalk markings and raised asphalt caused by tree roots—specifically between 3rd Ave NW / NW 36th St and NW 42nd St.

SBAB became acutely aware of these issues after receiving a presentation from a concerned citizen and leader of the “Fix the Burke Gilman” advocacy initiative, Kevin Troutt (in association with Seattle Neighborhood Greenways).

We recognize that SDOT has begun repairing the crosswalks by removing pre-existing layers and applying new markings to prevent buildup that leads to dangerously uneven surfaces on the trail. We ask that SDOT prioritize completing the remaining crosswalk repairs in the above-specified section by the end of 2025.

We also request that SDOT update its engineering standards to specify a maximum crosswalk marking height of 1/8 inch or less. Ideally, the department would also consider using green paint at these (and other trail-wide) crossings, as it effectively alerts drivers to the presence of a bicycle thoroughfare.

These repairs and improvements will greatly enhance safety and accessibility along one of the city’s most vital biking, walking, and rolling routes.

Additionally, Kevin Troutt engaged our board in a broader discussion about how we can systemically review the Burke-Gilman Trail for long-term improvements and maintenance. As a result, SBAB also advocates for the following actions:

- Comprehensive data collection and maintenance tracking across the entire Burke-Gilman Trail—similar to the bike counters on the Fremont Bridge. We hope this data will highlight increased trail usage and help guide appropriate funding for ongoing maintenance and safety improvements.

Joan Chen

Joseph Roberts, Co-Chair

Kathryn Ricchiuto, Co-Chair

Ksenia Ershova

Madin Akpo-Esampe

Max Baker

Molly McNeely

Naomi Cutler, Get Engaged

Member

Nia Ransom

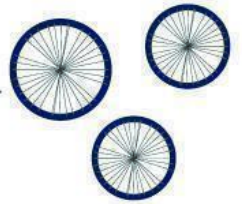
Rafael Ronquillo, Secretary,

Levy Oversight Committee Rep.

Taylor (“TJ”) Horn

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city’s planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

~ City Council
Resolution 25534



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- Addressing hazardous root bumps in the asphalt, both in this section and trail-wide. These bumps pose serious risks to cyclists of all skill and comfort levels and should be routinely repaired as part of standard trail maintenance.
- Improved public communication regarding repair timelines and future maintenance efforts. Currently, trail users are often unaware of upcoming work until it disrupts their commute. We request that trail and bike route maintenance updates be standardized to meet or exceed the level of communication provided for vehicle infrastructure.

Follow-Up

To continue this conversation and ensure progress, SBAB respectfully requests:

- A specific update on the repair schedule for the remaining crosswalks within the section noted above.
- A presentation to SBAB on the current status of trail safety guidelines and engineering standards.

We look forward to your response and to working together to improve safety standards and maintenance intervals across Seattle's bikeways.

Sincerely,
Seattle Bike Advisory Board

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