

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Joint Meeting Minutes

Date: February 2, 2022
 Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams
 SBAB Co-chairs: Patrick Taylor and Sarah Udelhofen
 Recorders: Simon Blenski and Tyler Vasquez, SDOT

Bicycle Advisory Board Members Present:

Seat	Members	Present	Absent
		✓	X
1	Yasir Alfarag	✓	
2	Kashina Groves	✓	
3	Jose Nino	✓	
4	Andrea Lai, Secretary	✓	
5	Diane Walsh	✓	
6	Vacant		
7	Andrew Dannenberg	✓	
8	Meredith Hall	✓	
9	Sarah Udelhofen, Co-Chair	✓	
10	Patrick Taylor, Co-Chair		X
11	Maimoona Rahim	✓	
12	Yacoov Tarko, Get Engaged Member	✓	

Meeting Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by SBAB co-chair Sarah Udelhofen.

Public Comment:

- Email from Hannah Volkman on 1/22/22: Not sure if this is the correct place to send this email. Part of my route is biking on 15th Ave ne from 70th to NE 155th. I love the added bike lane improvements in the last few years, but the bike lane ends at ne 125th st. I see quite a few people riding their bikes between 125th and 155th on 15th Ave ne - me included. It would be great if the bike lane continued here. I would feel a lot safer if the bike route signs that indicate this is a bike route came with lanes, especially with the steep climb. Is there a place to petition for bike lane improvements here? Thanks
- Email from Ander Freeling on 1/24/22: I just wanted to write to share some of my thoughts and suggestions for bicycle infrastructure in Seattle. I live in the Bitter Lake neighborhood and cycle frequently. I've really loved the changes I've seen in the city over the past few years, with many new bike lanes, bike paths, and improvements. I'm also a big fan of the Stay Healthy Streets and hope they remain permanent in some form. These feel more like "People Streets" as opposed to car streets. I'd love to see more improvement in connecting bike routes in North Seattle. Connections between the Interurban Trail North, Green Lake, Greenwood Avenue, and Northgate are already in a good place but could be even better. Here are some changes I'd be excited to see. Extending the Interurban Trail by one block at the south end, through the small triangular lot at 110th and Fremont. This currently has a gravel path, and extending the paved trail would be a really nice improvement. This could even be turned into a small park. Improving biking around Haller Lake, and connecting this to Northgate. The new bike path on 1st

Avenue is a great improvement, but it needs connections going north. I'd love to see protected bike lanes or paths connect this to Haller Lake via the 117th overpass over I-5. More pedestrianization of Fremont Avenue between 83rd and 110th, and of 83rd street between Greenwood Ave and Green Lake Dr. NE. Things like permanent signs, obstructions, painted surfaces, and raised crosswalks could all contribute to this.

- Gordon Padelford: Hi, I'm the executive director of Seattle Neighborhood Greenways. I have not been to a SBAB meeting in a while and just wanted to say that I'm grateful for your service. I also wanted to say that we have been through Mayoral transitions before and it is often a time when projects get put on hold, canceled, or watered down. I want to thank you for holding the city accountable for the projects that you all care about.

Presentations:

BMP Implementation Plan Update

Presenters: Serena Lehman, SDOT

Presentation: See attached

Time: 6:10 p.m.

Presentation:

- Serena:
 - I'm here to give an update on the BMP Implementation Plan and status of key projects.
 - Stepping back, I wanted to remind you that we have the 2014 BMP, we develop an Implementation Plan to select which projects to build, then there is the project development process including planning, design, and construction.
 - In 2019 we updated the Implementation Plan. We did a quantitative analysis and qualitative analysis developed 2019-2025 project list.
 - Some new opportunities have come up and we are incorporating them as those opportunities arise, reviewing them against our prioritization criteria.
 - 2021 was a banner year for bike projects due to slow down in 2020 and having a number of projects in the queue. A few highlights included:
 - Connections to the new Northgate light rail stations.
 - Completing almost all of the Center City Bike Network
 - Connections to the central waterfront and Climate Pledge Arena
 - In 2022, there will be more downtown projects, connections to light rail stations and many safe routes to school projects. There may be potential delays to the current concrete strike, but nothing confirmed yet.
 - There are many more projects in 2023 and beyond such as MLK PBL, Georgetown to South Park connection, Alaskan Way, RapidRide J Line, and many neighborhood greenways and safe routes to school projects.

Discussion:

- Meredith: From this latest round of projects are there any lessons learned that you can share?
 - Serena: As you all know bike projects can be tricky because they have large impacts. We want to try to get buy-in from the communities that will benefit from or be impacted by the projects. I think there is a lot of opportunity with transit projects and I think the North Link projects are good examples. Lastly, leading with our values always puts us in a good spot for success.

- Yasir: You mentioned some delays due to the concrete strike. How is SDOT deciding which projects to delay?
 - Serena: There are no delays yet, but we are in a holding pattern.
- Yasir: You said J Line is planned for 2023. Does that mean that there will be PBL's on Eastlake by then?
 - Serena: The J Line project includes a bike facility along Eastlake. Construction is planned to start in 2023, with completion by 2025. I know you wrote a letter asking for a better connection south of the University Ave Bridge. Once the project gets through the current NEPA process, I know they will be looking at ways to improve that section.
- Diane: What is the School Speed Automated Enforcement Fund and how can we leverage that?
 - Serena: Our Safe Routes to School and Neighborhood Greenway program staff use that revenue to fund connections to schools. They recently found there was additional revenue, so they are developing a one-time package of projects, focusing on equity and connection to schools.
- Sarah: Are there any projects we should keep an eye on?
 - Serena: The West Marginal Way PBL project was developed during the West Seattle bridge closure and planned to be built after the bridge reopens. There is interest in monitoring traffic patterns after the bridge reopens before building.
 - Meredith: So West Marginal Way is not a done deal?
 - Serena: No. The plans are to monitor traffic patterns before moving forward.
- Maimoona: The Levy Oversight Committee had questions about some Levy-funded bike projects. Can I contact you with specific questions?
 - Serena: Yes.

2022 Board Priorities

Presenter: All board members

Presentation: None

Time: 6:30 p.m.

- Board Approval of Letters:
 - Letter of introduction and meeting request with Mayor Bruce Harrell
 - Kashina: I we should add back in the part of asking to SBAB to participate in the new SDOT director selection process.
 - Maimoona: I agree with Kashina.
 - Yaacov: Not opposed, but think we should be specific on our ask. Are we asking to attend meetings or just share our perspective?
 - Andy: Being on a search committee can be a large amount of time.
 - Sarah: Historically, SBAB has not participated in the selection process and it would probably end up being Patrick or me representing SBAB.
 - Kashina: The main goal is reminding them that non-car constituents do matter.
 - Sarah: We can approve the letter in concept and have Kashina update the language.
 - Jose: Motion to approve
 - Yaccov: Second
 - All: Approve
 - Letter supporting the pedestrianizing Pike Place Market

- Meredith: Can change the wording to maintaining accessibility, not maintaining access.
 - Andy: We should also add emergency vehicle access.
 - Yacoov: Motion to approve
 - Second: Maimoona
 - Approve: All
 - Letter to Support \$1,000 subsidy WA State of Electric Bicycle Purchase
 - Yacoov: Motion to approve
 - Yasir: Second
 - All: Approve
 - Sarah: Great, thanks for approving all those. Andrea, can you please format and send out all the letters.
 - Andrea: Yes.
- Developing Relationships with Council Members
 - Sarah: Our goal is to meet with all Council Members, but it is ok to start small meet with just a few, including members of the Transportation Committee: Petersen (Chair) Strauss (Vice Chair), and Herbold, Morales, Sawant. It would be great to form a sub-group to work together to draft letter.
 - Kashina: I can help reach out.
 - Meredith/Diane: We can reach out to Herbold.
 - Jose/Sarah/Andrea: We are in Pedersen's district and can reach out to him.
 - Kashina: Patrick and I live in District 2 and work on that letter.
 - Yacoov: I'm in District 3.
 - Sarah: I started a Google Doc with a draft letter and talking points for the meetings. I welcome any thoughts or experiences people have had working with Council offices. Kashina, could we meet to discuss and is there anyone else that would like to join the meeting?
 - Kashina: Yes
 - Diane: I would like to join, too.
- Attend Council Meetings
 - Sarah: I'm asking for a volunteer to track agendas and report on any items related to SBAB. All you need to do is sign up to get agendas emailed to you, scan them, and email SBAB if there is anything of interest.
 - Yasir: I can do this for Council meetings. Can you send me the info for how to sign up for email updates?
 - Andrea: I can do this for the Transportation Committee.
- Union St PBL Lane blocked at 23rd Ave
 - Yasir: There have been cars parked in the eastbound bike lane east of 23rd Ave since January 4. I have called Parking Enforcement several times and used the Find It Fix It App three times. I think the solution is to install bollards to prevent cars from parking in the bike lane.
 - Yacoov: Requesting to upgrade the bike lane to a PBL may take many years. Is there a near-term fix?
 - Andy: Have you thought about putting a note on the cars?
 - Yasir: I don't feel comfortable doing that.
 - Kashina: The rest of the Union St is a PBL, so I think adding posts could be a quick fix. I have done a Find It Fix It to add posts before.

- Simon: I can check with my SDOT colleagues about this. The Union St PBL was built in 2021 when the Midtown Apartments were still under construction, so we may have held off on the post install for this block.
- Sarah: We could draft a letter on citywide solutions and ask for improvements on this specific block. We are also attempting to get parking enforcement to come to SBAB discuss their new involvement at SDOT. We also want more durable long-term solutions than flex posts.
- Yasir: I can draft a letter to SDOT.
 - Yaacov: I can buddy up with you to draft the letter.
- Simon: I checked and we held off on installing posts until after the apartment construction was complete. Posts will be added.
- Andy: How is Find It Fix It Handled? Is it taken seriously by SDOT?
 - Simon: It is taken seriously and I have experienced that firsthand as a resident. I do not know exactly how all items get routed, but requests do come to our group for review. There is a large volume of requests and solutions are not always easy, but they are all taken seriously.
 - Andy: I would be interested in seeing the number of requests that come in.
- E-Bike Education and Access:
 - Sarah: I started a Google Doc to gather information on this topic. It would be a great for someone to be the resident expert for SBAB to make an influence in 2022.
 - Diane: I would be happy to volunteer.
 - Kashina: I'm curious how many members ride an e-bike?
 - Four members raised their hands
 - Kashina: There is a large amount of information from other states to keep an eye on.
 - Meredith: The problem is not the bike, but the speed. Everyone with an e-bike could ride their bike safer and slower. The conversation needs to change and we need to set a new tone.

Public Comments:

- None

Board Business:

- Approval of December and January meeting minutes
 - Jose: Move to approve
 - Yasir: Second
 - All: Approve
- LOC Update:
 - Maimoona: We got an introduction from the new Chief Equity Officer in the Mayor's Office, Adiam Emery. She was formerly with SDOT, so it is exciting to have a transportation person in that role. We should consider inviting her to a future meeting.
- Appointment updates:
 - Sarah: SBAB had been following up with Council Member Petersen's office for months about filling the open seat. There were some delays due to the busy budget season, but we did not understand why they could not make time to review this simple board appointment. We recently learned that they did not proceed with our recommendation and went with another person. This is frustrating because there was no dialogue between Petersen's office and SBAB about this decision. We want

to welcome the new person and think they will be great. However, Patrick, Simon, and I spent a lot of time on the recruitment process, application review, and interviews so it is frustrating to go through the whole process and not have our recommendation considered.

- Meredith: Did this person apply?
 - Simon: No, they did not submit an application as part of our 2021 recruitment process.
- Kashina: What was Council Member Pedersen's involvement in the process?
 - Simon: When there are vacant seats, we reach out to the Mayor's Office and Council to see if they have any recommendations for the vacant seats or if they would like SDOT to proceed with recruitment. When the recruitment cycle started last summer, Council Member Pedersen's office said they did not have anyone in mind so SDOT proceeded with recruitment.
- Andy: Are there any formal policies on the decision process?
 - Simon: There are no formal policies, but these are ultimately political appointments and it is up to the Mayor's Office and Council for who gets selected. I think the frustration is about the change in direction and the amount of time it took to get to a decision.
- Sarah: Patrick and I explicitly asked their office if the Council Member is considering another candidate and we did not get an answer. Patrick and I each spent over 17 hours volunteering our time for this process. We feel like we were strung along and this does not seem like the most equitable outcome. Despite that I'm trying to stay positive and build a relationship going forward.
- Meredith: It is disappointing that the Council Member did not respect your time. When Mike O'Brien was the Chair of the Transportation Committee, we had a relationship. I don't think that exists anymore. SBAB needs to build a relationship with Council Member Petersen's office to avoid situations like this going forward.
- Kashina: I agree we should build a relationship. I would be open to meeting with Council Member Petersen's office and or anyone on their team.
- Announcements:
 - Meredith: I wanted to share a link to the draft Industrial and Maritime Strategy: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/b7d5f3183c924ace99b69d2e094a4303?item=4>. Unfortunately, we are past comment period, but I think it would be valuable for SBAB to write a letter and provide feedback on how bikes and freight can coexist. This is especially important as we think about the Georgetown to Downtown connection and other connections in the Duwamish Valley. Would anyone be interested in helping me with that?
 - Maimoona: I can help.
 - Sarah: As we get close to the end of winter, it would be great to have a meet up to see people in person. Please reach out if you have ideas for a picnic, happy hour, or ride.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 by SBAB Co-chair Sarah Udelhofen