



Seattle

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board



*Stewards of the
Pedestrian Master Plan*

Christ Grgich, Co-Chair
Maria Sumner, Co-Chair
Rohit Ammanamanchi
Fallon Boyle
Emily Davis
Erin Fitzpatrick
David Frantz
Holt Hafer, Get Engaged
Wes Mills
Chelsea Morrison
Natasha Riveron
Emilie Szeto

SPAB MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2023

Location: In Person – City Hall Room 370

Location: Virtual Meeting—Microsoft Teams

Board Members:

Maria Sumner
Chris Grgich
David Frantz
Rohit Ammanamanchi
Fallon Boyle
Emily Davis
Holt Hafer
Chelsea Morrison
Natasha Riveron
Emilie Szeto
Wes Mills

Nonmembers:

Delaney
Zoe
Mike
Riley Humbert
Jules Posadas
Doug McDonald
Dusty Rasmussen
MariLyn Yim

6:00 pm – Welcome, Roll Call, and Vision Zero Update – 10 min

- 17 fatalities - 7 people walking, 2 people biking, 3 people on motorcycles, 5 people in cars

6:10 pm – Public Comment – 5 min

- Doug McDonald: Has been working with SDOT to get scooter collision data; sidewalks along 15th Ave NW are in poor condition; Doug will report back to SPAB with conditions of sidewalks on 15th Ave NW

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor and all the offices of the city on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning insofar as they relate to the pedestrian safety and access.

*~City Council Resolution
28791*

- Riley Humbert: Excited to see improvements made to 15th Ave NW with additional pedestrian safety measures—particularly new crossing; appreciates that SDOT has responded to pedestrian safety needs.
- Zoe: 15th Ave NW is challenging for walking or biking; appreciates SDOT's improvements to walking and biking on this corridor.

6:15 pm – 15th Ave NW AAC – 30 min

Jules Posadas – SDOT Communications Lead

Marilyn Yim – SDOT Senior Civil Engineer

Dusty Rasmussen - SDOT Transportation Operations Division Director

- Paving area covers 15th Ave NW between NW 57th St to W Emerson St
- Project scope:
 - Replace bridge expansion joints and improve earthquake safety on bridge
 - Will be adding new southbound bus lane, upgrade curb ramps
 - Repair sidewalks
 - Install new lighting around Ballard Bridge
 - Construct new median and install street trees in place of one of the southbound lanes
 - New signalized crosswalk at NW 51st St connecting Ballard Brewery District with Ballard businesses and attractions to the west
- Traffic and Construction Impacts:
 - 15th Ave NW/Ballard Bridge is a major truck street on the freight network and carries a high volume of general-purpose traffic and transit
 - Even with detours and lane closures, pedestrian access will be maintained on the Ballard Bridge at all times
 - Project will likely have a lot of night and weekend work
 - Project construction will have temporary lane and sidewalk closures
 - Project team will keep the public up-to-date on construction impacts as the contractor is selected
- Schedule:
 - Summer 2022-Summer 2023: Design
 - Early 2024-Early 2025: Construction
- Budget Sources:
 - Arterial, asphalt, and Concrete Program (Move Seattle Levy)
 - Roadway Structures
 - Sidewalk Safety Repair Program

- Federal Highway Administration
 - Puget Sound Regional Council
 - Seattle Transit Measure
- Emilie: Dedicated bus lanes on Rainier Ave S are transitioning into passing lane for cars, how are bus lanes being analyzed to ensure they are being used as bus lanes?
 - Dusty: SDOT developing solutions to mitigate these impacts. Looking into enforcement options for bus lanes. Red bus lane paint on 15th Ave NW is intended to help reinforce the intended use of the bus lane.
 - Residents can reach out to Customer Service or 206-684-ROAD to report issues.
- Chris: Can you explain lighting improvements around Leary?
 - Dusty: Will be improving uniformity of lighting underneath the bridge and on Emerson.
- Chris: Is any improvement planned for north end of Ballard Bridge?
 - Dusty: This will be addressed in the overall project implementation but is not included in the immediate plans.
- Wes: Are there plans for placing barriers to move the sidewalk into the roadway during construction?
 - Dusty: Team is still working on details of traffic control plan, but the goal is to maintain pedestrian access to the greatest extent possible.
- Maria: Is there any process for looking at lane reductions down to a single lane in each direction?
 - Dusty: This was looked at in the analysis, but the street does carry a lot of north-south traffic for buses, trucks, and general purpose vehicles. Lanes were reduced from three lanes to two lanes north of the Ballard Bridge.
- Maria: Can you explain how the additional scope and changes were added?
 - Jules: Changes were from community input, leadership, and commitment to safety goals. Intention to provide better connectivity between Ballard Brewery District and Ballard Landmark District. Improving pedestrian lighting underneath the bridges and landscaped median are intended to provide additional safety benefits. Sidewalk repair is also included in the project scope, focusing on sidewalks in poor condition.
 - MariLyn: Sidewalk repair, curb ramps, and lighting are key improvements.

- Is the new signal at NW 51st St a half signal or full signal? How does this work with the City's no turn on red policy?
 - Dusty: This will be a half signal with stop signs for control on the side streets and stops will still be required on the side streets.
- Wes: Will turns on red be restricted off of 15th Ave NW? Will the median extend through the intersection?
 - Dusty: will need to check whether right turns are restricted on red off of 15th Ave NW. The median will extend through the intersection.
- Chris: What is the future of the Ballard Bridge replacement?
 - Dusty: We've done several studies on this replacement, but it's a high-cost project and it's something SDOT is evaluating for future funding opportunities.

6:45 pm – Board Business – 75 min
Meeting Minutes Approval (July 2023)

- Minutes approved

Levy Oversight Committee Updates

- No updates this month

September Field Trip

Maria:

- The next meeting will be a field trip meeting at 1st Ave and Pike St
- Will also visit Melrose Promenade Plaza
 - Options for transit, walking, biking, or vanpool between sites
- SPAB is still working out if there will be speakers for either the 1st Ave and Pike St or the Melrose Promenade
 - SDOT Liaison to contact project staff to determine availability.
- Event will likely end at 7:30PM

Chris:

- Idea is to create discussion around improvements to pedestrian plazas.
- We could invite Greg Spotts to the field trip.
- Could also invite Tom Hewitt (SDOT ADA Coordinator) to field trip.

Seattle Planning Commission Meeting

- Holt: Discuss email around Seattle Planning Commission's request for SPAB involvement at an upcoming meeting

- Maria: Seattle Planning Commission wants to engage with modal board staff to gauge interest in Seattle Transportation Plan and identify common issues and concerns
- Emily, Wes, Fallon, and David may be able to join the meeting
- Chris: We could also send the letter to the Seattle Planning Commission that was sent to SDOT staff on the STP

Mayor's Downtown Activation Plan:

- David: Could conduct a deep dive of the Downtown Activation Plan in preparation for the field trip next month. We could consider including someone from the Mayor's Office on speaking on the Downtown Activation Plan.
- Chris: Could have someone from the Mayor's Office provide the overview of the plan.

6:57 pm – Public Comment – 5 min

6:57 pm – Meeting Adjourn

Teleconference: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call In: +1 206-686-8357, 797153933#

Meeting ID: 282 125 941 863

Passcode: Bxa7Ci

**next meeting will be an outdoor field trip on September 13, 2023*