

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee

April 11, 2025

Members (X = present)

	Brooke Nelson	SPS, Safe Routes to School Coordinator
X	Diane Walsh	SDOT liaison
	Gary Davenport	SPD
X	Kelsey Rote	Secretary, Volunteer
X	Margaret McCauley	Volunteer
X	Maris Zivarts	Volunteer
X	Mary Ellen Russell	Volunteer
	Noa Guter	Volunteer
X	Robbie Frankel	King County Metro
X	Ryan Baum	Chair, Volunteer
	Yvonne Carpenter	SPS, Field Staff and Crossing Guard Supervisor

Other attendees:

Sara Colling	SDOT, Safe Routes to School Program Manager
Steven Richard	SPS, Director of Transportation

Agenda:

1. Public comment
 - a. No one present for public comment
2. Review of minutes and previous action items
 - a. Robbie follow-ups on traffic study and potentially moving a bus stop
 - i. Traffic study – reached out to consulting firm, it was back in 2016 and those traffic counts were not specific to Washington Middle School, prior to 2017 Meany wasn't an active middle school so WA boundaries were very different. Could still be relevant but school boundaries have changed.
 - ii. Had a team member go out and observe school release period to see how students use Jackson street and route 14 going east/west, will follow up with morning observation, also want to look into route 8 going north/south, will keep doing more observations and see if improvements could be made, especially tacking on to existing capital needs and improvements, they'll then follow up with the city.
 - b. Sara, Brooke, Diane follow-ups
 - i. Sarah, Margaret, and Brooke will be going out on a site visit this afternoon to Washington Middle School, looking into a school street there
 - ii. Brooke checked with SPS capital projects and they did not have Washington Middle School projects in their levy, they'll have another levy in 2028, but is there something that can be done now/money for smaller improvements? What is that process like?
 1. For smaller projects (not named in levy), like small walking path or bike rack installations or painting on paved play area, etc. that all

goes through Volunteer Enhancements review board, meet twice per month, and review all projects that schools request. They're usually requested from a school staff member, but sometimes coordinated with PTA's and volunteer groups. That could be one option for a smaller project. **Brooke will follow up with capital projects team to see if there are other avenues for non-levy projects.**

- iii. Sara noted that speed cushions on South Lucile Street are unlikely for now
 - c. Ryan talked with the Freight Board, we have a speaking spot at their May meeting, had a nice discussion with the chair, supports the idea of identifying areas where we overlap or have differing opinions
 - d. Steven sent email update on walk map timeline
 - e. Brooke sent out flyer and is working on google group
 - f. Minutes approved
3. SPS and crossing guard update
- a. Getting ready for bike month, getting out comms with Cascade and planning announcements with SDOT and SPS, working on assembling packages, doing lots of events
 - b. Crossing guard recruitment for areas by greenlake, greenwood, loyal heights
 - c. Working with housing coordinators for areas that house SPS families, Housing Authority no longer allowed to pay walk leaders (they have some money still available but would need a fiscal sponsor, Brooke reaching out to Seattle Neighborhood Greenways and others). **Ryan will reach out to rec centers to see if he can find a good contact.**
4. SDOT update
- a. May is "Walk and Bike to School Month" – please help spread the word
 - b. Washington Middle School – proposing a School Street, meeting with school this afternoon
 - c. Sand Point ES/Magnuson Park – building a new connection from Magnuson Park Housing, doing a walkway along 62nd Ave NE, along with RRFB and improved crossing across 65th
 - d. WSDOT Walks
 - i. Concord – curb ramps, bulbs, and marked crosswalks going in this summer, working on walkway support, adding no turn on red sign, shared support for channelization changes, working with Bike team,
 - 1. **Sara will keep tabs on this, talk to the bike team, and update us**
 - 2. **Diane will try one more time to get in contact with WSDOT before committee members try as well**
 - ii. John Stanford – putting in all way stops
 - iii. Future projects
 - 1. New Sidewalks collaboration – community walks
 - a. South Delridge – 4/23
 - b. Highland Park – 5/21
 - c. South Park – 6/11
 - 2. Home Zone collaboration – neighborhoods of focus
 - a. Olympic Hills
 - b. John Muir
 - c. Rainier View

- d. **Sara/Diane will check in with Home Zone, maybe they could come talk to us again and give us some updates**
- 3. Upgrading more School Streets to permanent (2 this year, likely 2 next year)
- 5. Yvonne retiring
 - a. need to figure out how to get a new SPS appointee, someone is being hired to train under her and then will transition into her role. **Brooke will work with Diane.**
- 6. Proposed update to the director's note for [public school code updates](#), from SDCI
 - a. Public comment period on the environmental aspect of the proposed changes ends on the 24th of this month, so only two week period. We can weigh in as individuals but also as a committee. Includes a recommendation for one parking space for every two classrooms (way better than they have now, but would still result in a lot of projects having to ask for exceptions/departures). Peer districts have recently eliminated parking for schools, resistance is coming from school neighbors not from SDCI. Mary Ellen noted that this is an improvement still, since parking overlays would now apply (like parking would not be required for a school very close to a light rail station).
 - b. **Subcommittee Margaret, Maris, Kelsey, maybe others**
 - c. **Ryan will email Chanda Emery to see if we could have them do a briefing with us, perhaps May meeting**
- 7. Freight Board
 - a. Ryan got in touch with chair of the [Freight Advisory Board](#)
 - b. They're meeting next Tuesday, we got an invite for the **Tuesday May 20th meeting 3:30-5:30 pm**, what would we like to raise with them?
 - i. Super short intro into who we are and what our purview is
 - ii. Areas of overlap (and potential disagreement)
 - 1. Broader city wide philosophical debate, freight board has said certain roads are freight priority are also roads where crashes happen, students cross, businesses exist, etc. Freight priority vs human priority. Freight priority leads to speed and also human loss and injury. How do we allow professional drivers to move easily throughout the city while also not allowing speeding by cars and car-caused injury and death? Enhancing buses, bike lanes, sidewalks, making it safe and pleasant to not be in your car, makes it easier for people and trucks who have to drive.
 - 2. Examples:
 - a. Rainier
 - b. Henderson
 - c. Missing Link in Ballard
 - d. 92nd and Aurora
 - 3. Freight should also not want car back-ups, crashing into buildings, hitting people, etc. so what can be implemented that will help both freight drivers and people? Most dangerous, busiest streets, etc. aren't good for truck drivers either. Are there traffic calming measures that are annoying vs aren't annoying for truck drivers? There must be pieces of traffic calming and street element alignment between their board and ours.
 - c. **Ryan will put together some slides, Margaret will also be helping**

- d. Freight program is also moving within SDOT, so very timely
- 8. Walk zones
 - a. Completed $\frac{3}{4}$ of schools, down to Queen Anne, Magnolia, and West Seattle remaining to do
 - b. Should finish going through all schools by June meeting, maybe by July at the latest
 - c. How do we avoid doing a two year process every 7-10 years? Useful but currently very time consuming process. How do we review changes as facts on the ground change? Is there any way we can automate or maybe have quarterly meetings for when intersections change? How do we get a list of intersections that have changed and what school boundary they're in? is there an SDOT repository of intersections that have changed? **Sara and Diane will ask around**, for now we've got:
 - i. [DOTMaps](#)
 - ii. [GIS SDOT asset map](#)
 - iii. [Other interactive GIS maps](#)
 - iv. Committee could review these before February 1 deadline each year, between when those maps are updated in summer and the deadline in February to review high priority intersections
- 9. Air quality in schools
 - a. **Margaret will talk with people she knows who have strava or purple monitors**
 - b. **Kelsey will check with OSPI about air quality data, see what Ecology and others have as well (state-level data), look into green school grants**
 - c. **Diane talked with schools about this a bit, Diane brought this up with chief climate officer, UW has some labs that are interested in this, Diane will keep us updated**
 - d. **Brooke will also look into details, as Roxhill is planning to organize a student air quality monitor project**
- 10. How could the committee be more informed of who initiates SDOT changes, feedback mechanisms, keeping a pulse on SDOT rules changes, etc. Can we get upstream view into the process?
 - a. **Sara and Diane will think on and ask around**
- 11. Retreat
 - a. **Ryan will take up as an action item at next meeting**