

Transit Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Nov. 19, 2025

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Notetaker: Sidney Orr

TAB Member Attendance

Member	Present (X)
Priya Balan	X
Deborah Barnard	X
Ashwin Bhumbla	
Zach Burton	X
Shirley Chu	X
Dana Coppernoll-Houston	X
Katie Freeman	
Art Kuniyuki	X
Sidney Orr	X
Sandro Pani	
Carolyn Tillinger	X

Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion:	To approve July, August, and October 2025 TAB meeting minutes
Motioned by:	Priya
Seconded:	Art
Nays:	None
Vote outcome:	Passed

Public Comment

None

Presentations

None

Board Business

Board Member Icebreaker Activity

Budget Subcommittee

- Art reported out and mentioned that the amendment the TAB opposed passed, but CM Rinck voted in opposition. CM Saka had the Amalgamated Union supporting him. Shirley mentioned that we should think about cultivating a relationship with CM Rinck. Art said that Rinck mentioned three other funding sources they could have pulled from.
- Deborah asked how we can get our letters into union hands.
 - Carolyn - As an individual. Letters that the TAB drafted need to be directed to the city.
- Shirley - Is it appropriate for us to make friends with unions? I can imagine that they saw something as better than nothing. It feels like there's a lack of connection.
 - Carolyn - Co-chairs or reps of the board could reach out or invite unions to our meeting.
 - Deborah - We could ask about their transit priorities
 - Dana - Note that the operators' union is for King County, which is a larger area than Seattle. They will be looking at a broader topography. I think it'd be relevant to ask if some union members could meet us.
- **ACTION: Zach - Motion to preapprove a thank you letter, drafted by the budget subcommittee, from the TAB to CM Rinck in regard to her vote on the budget amendment.**
 - **Dana: Second**
 - **Vote: Unanimous approval**

Route 8 Discussion Recap

- Dana - The Route 8 subcommittee met with SDOT representatives to discuss barriers to the 8 becoming more efficient. The TAB subcommittee emphasized the desire for the Route 8 to be prioritized over spillover. The SDOT reps were concerned about spillover.
- Zach - It made me feel less frustrated. 2027 could be the year that we can make some headway on this. They talked about eliminating some right and left turns around Denny and Yale to redirect traffic to Mercer Street to access I-5. So they talked about potential plans to divert traffic and incorporate bus lanes incrementally. They had some good ideas to

- Dana - They are nervous about squandering public good will capital. Like if traffic gets worse, people could get extremely angry.
- Zach - Dana gave some inspirational messages
- Dana - We got better information on the complexities of the problem. In terms of what the immediate future of the 8 looks like, I don't see SDOT finding an obvious solution right now. The mayor's strategy could change things.
- Zach - SDOT will perform a sensitivity study soon.
- Art - I wish they had more contingency plans. There may be a new head of SDOT soon if the mayor swaps people out. How long are we supposed to wait? Things are going slow. Why are we focused on Denny.
- Zach - Denny is the only street that cuts across here and makes the most logistical sense. SDOT has a valid study but it doesn't include mode shift.
- Sidney - Have we reported back out to the L8?
- Dana - We haven't.
- Zach - I think we can advocate for some small shifts.
- Dana - I feel like we don't have an obvious solution to report out.
- Art - The TAB can choose to continue to advocate but it won't be quick.
- Priya - I'm trying to understand better what the smaller changes will be.
- Zach - Get rid of the right turn from EB Denny onto SB Yale. Getting rid of left turn lane from WB Denny onto SB Lenora to increase queue onto Fairview.
- Dana - This would be helpful because the last two stops before the bus route crosses I-5 are the busiest.
- Shirley - I think we all want the same things. A trial process would be interesting. Right now they're relying on these studies and we could advocate for experimentation.
- Deborah - A precursor to RapidRide lanes is often commute lanes.
- Art - SDOT is a public facing department. If their trial reflected what the report shows. They would look bad. Departments change. The mayor may make this a high priority. A wrap up letter would be good so you could reflect it to the mayor and city council.

- Zach - And we could recap it to the L8
- ACTION: Motion for the Route 8 subcommittee to draft a follow up letter on behalf of the TAB to SDOT Route 8 project team recognizing the initial collaboration meeting and expressing interest in continuing the dialogue, promoting Route 8 frequency, and advocating for the Route 8 project team's ideas.
 - Deborah - Second
 - Unanimous approval
- Priya - I want to reemphasize the idea that it doesn't have to be an all or nothing approach. It can be slowly but consistently injecting small improvements. That feels more realistic. At this point Denny is not very multimodal friendly. I doubt cyclists feel safe there. I don't think we're making it very safe yet.
- Shirley - Yeah maybe by proposing something in between right now we'll be more successful. SDOT seems very cautious right now.

Meeting Adjourned