

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee

Meeting held online

November 13, 2020 Minutes

STSC Attendees

- ✓ Richard Staudt (SPS)
- ✓ Mary Ellen Russell, Chair (parent volunteer)
- ✓ Margaret McCauley (pedestrian safety advocate)
- ✓ Jennie Meulenberg (SDOT, corridors and Ped transportation planner)
- ✓ Marilyn Firman (citizen-at-large)
- ✓ Lee Bruch (citizen-at-large)
- ✓ Yvonne Carpenter (SPS transportation crossing guard manager)
Charlie Simpson (bicycle advocate)
- ✓ Peaches Thomas (safe streets advocate & new member!)
Hunter Maltais

Other Presenters/Public

Amy Jain
Vincent Gonzales, Project manager
Cody Scott
Dedy Fauntleroy, principal of Northgate Elementary
D R Reeves
Chris Coleman, Lydig Construction
Shelley Hurley
Heidi Slater- Hawthorne Elementary
Seth Cato- Hawthorne Elementary

Public Comment

No public comment.

Last Month's Minutes

ACTION-No response from Hunter re Student Heat Maps. Still need follow up.

ACTION- Jennie will get POAG schedule for next two meetings. No meeting in October, next one will be in December.

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ACTION- Margaret will reach out to operation committee on the school board with the Draft Circulation document. Mary Ellen has combined and circulated it at the Oct. 29th meeting with SDOT.

Minutes approved unanimously as corrected. Minutes corrections:
Melissa Coen is SPS capital projects financial analyst
Eric Becker spelling correction

Next Meeting: December 11th.

SDOT Update: (Jennie)

Might start advertising early next year for Active Transportation Coordinator. The person should be on line by next summer. Currently position description is being reviewed by Hunter and SPS legal team.

ACTION - Jennie will dig into City council budget and share with us next meeting the specifics of what is approved.

Meeting with SPS and SDOT to Discuss Street Improvement Permit (SIP) process changes.

Jennie and Mary Ellen reported back on the results the meeting on October 29th of the SDOT street use team and SPS team to see how this proposal could fit in to current processes. The meeting went well. SPS brought up issues about inspectors arriving late in the game but we plan to address that issue separately. Richard Best will talk to his team on capital projects to figure out when to use this process. Internal discussion at SPS are to be followed by another meeting. Discussion about SDOT approval could be early on before projects are sent for voter approval. Where would that work well for SDOT? Everyone is on the same page in wanting improvement for kids. The suggestion was an early walk thru and talk to SPS capital projects before levy funds allotted. It was suggested to get items budgeted 4 years before construction. This is an opportunity to get items budgeted before capital funds are locked in. SDOT has been taking on projects around schools using their equity lens, but currently basic improvements around all schools are not covered. PTSA funding could be part of the solution, since the schools that are missing basic improvements have been schools with affluent PTSA's. Careful attention needs to be paid to equity whenever PTSA funding is considered as a source.

Lee reported City Council draft item to impose impact fees. It must be equitable and equal to all properties. Lee does not know if they can exclude schools.

ACTION Lee keep us apprised of impact fees updates. Richard schedule to get us out to sites earlier and give us a rundown for next meeting

ACTION Mary Ellen will contact Richard Best for information about cost specifics needed for inspectors?

Northgate contractor circulation

Chris Colman Superintendent of Construction for building Northgate school reported:

Phases of Construction:

1. Portable relocation plus 2 new portables to make sure everything fits.
2. New building construction
3. After new school is built, demolish old school to clear field and create ball field

He reported on how the traffic situation would be during the construction. Will leave notes under neighborhood doors and/doormats. Post email information and community board for people to help community relations. The goal is to minimize disruptions and provide noise reduction according to regulation for city hours. There will be no deliveries during the times when student are coming to or leaving school. Site rules will accord with pandemic restrictions. Deliveries probably will start 8:15 A M. Of interest: There are Geothermal wells drilled to 350' into ground for heating and cooling.

Richard and Mary Ellen asked about separation of parent and bus drop off. Prior to Covid closures parents dropped students off in church parking lot. Church is now refusing access due to insurance and diocese prohibition. Need new plan for construction drop off.

Sound transit should be contacted because of ongoing construction and possible conflict with light rail construction happening simultaneously nearby.

There is construction conflict with the two driveways entering and exiting the construction site where teachers would have to walk to get to school (muddy and torn up). Chris said they could include in the contract a requirement to keep the driveway walk paths regularly cleaned during construction

Dedy (principal) suggested using the dead end on 1st below 117th for parent pick up and drop off. The children could then be escorted in bunches to school across 117th.

There is still hope for some agreement with the church. The new parking lot on school grounds could be offered to the church when finished. Richard could offer liability responsibility for children by the school district. Having a Korean speaker would help on negotiating team. Dedy volunteered a Korean speaking teacher.

In the future ACTION: Letter from committee to church for how this would benefit both groups.

Haller Lake Community Club might be willing to write a letter as well. Suggest Chris make presentation to Haller lake community Club.

Space for outside drills (about 3X per year) would probably be church space. There will be a small playground for some time. Coordination with church is **very important**. Buses may be loading in front of church or parents unloading in a roundabout below the church.

Future ACTION: Update in 3-4 months with Chris/Lydig

Washington State Traffic Safety Committee School Safety Funding

Margaret spoke with Scott Waller, Program Manager for WSTSC:

1. There is a possible opportunity to put in for money from the state budget with grant applications, etc. Seattle has never received one so if there was an application it would

likely happen. Margaret explored this previously but SPS said that the administrative hoops were too much work compared to the amount of funding available.

2. Funding formula for transportation OSPI currently uses focuses on school buses. Urban districts miss on taxi's for children in insecure housing, active transportation coordinator, crossing guards etc.
3. In discussion of automated light enforcement it is better if equity is built in. ex. escalating fines for repeat offenders.
4. Scott is preparing a report for the governor's office. He will add 'that for school streets the last block around schools is often particularly hazardous'.
5. Margaret has established an awareness of STSC and a relationship with him.

Hawthorne Elementary

Seth reported the intersections around 38th and South Dakota, and Cascadia and South Dakota, are uncontrolled. There are serious pedestrian safety concerns. Columbia City is growing significantly with kids crossing thru the intersection. Heidi reported on lengthy attempts over years by residents to get safer walking routes to school and parks. In the meantime, there has been considerable growth, including a huge complex of low income housing close by. There is also a lot of traffic due to periodic closure of Lake Washington Blvd. with excessive speed even though cars are parked on both sides of the street. Additionally, accidents happen because there is a topographical issue with a blind street rise where pedestrians and unloading children are just not seeable.

ACTION- Jennie follow up with SDOT re Hawthorne School questions, see below. Also, Jennie will send Heidi information of lead on project at Andover and 38th(Serena Lehman). Jennie thinks there is a circulation plan around schools available publicly for Hawthorne. Jenny will send this to the team and to Heidi and Seth. Questions for Jennie:

What is going on with the stalled grants?

What could be done within SDOT regs for these uncontrolled intersections.

Tammy Morales Council Member has student at Hawthorne. A presentation to her might be useful for more than just Hawthorne. Jennie needs to follow up first and get more specific information.

Future Topics:

- City Budget update (December)
- Walk Boundary Subcommittee – in person
- Seattle's climate change planning for transportation (in-person)
- Mode choice survey schedule (When in-person school is starting)
- Annual calendar lookahead

Next Meeting date: December 11th