**Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee**

**John Stanford Center, Room 2760**

**December 21, 2018 Minutes**

**STSC Attendees**

Richard Staudt (SPS)

Mary Ellen Russell, Chair (parent volunteer)

Shanti Breznau, Secretary (citizen-at-large)

Margaret McCauley (pedestrian safety advocate)

Kevin O’Neill (SPD)

James Wells (Metro)

* Ashley Rhead (SDOT)

Mitchell Lloyd (SDOT)

* Marilyn Firman

Lee Bruch

* Yvonne Carpenter (SPS transportation crossing guard manager)
* Stephen Jones (SPS transportation bus manager)
* Bruce Skowyra (SPS transportation)

**Other Presenters/Public**

**Public comment**
None.

**November 2018 Minutes: Approved**
Paula has not posted new maps. Bruce Skowyra says they can’t be posted until school board approves at next meeting in January.

**Action:** \_Mary Ellen to follow up with Robin re: send pdf’s of final reports to committee.

Stephen met with new superintendent about the transportation task force. Now there will be an innovation group session to understand transportation challenges. A lot of senior leadership have not understood the transportation department in the past, the problems with busing have not been clearly communicated in the past. Stephen explained some of the issues with archaic communication systems and limited information from dispatch.

**Annual Report review**

**Ashley Rhead, Safe Routes to School Program Manager**SDOT compiling info from safe routes survey, equity outreach to develop strategies for how to move forward, better address people’s needs. Have been working with Cascade Bicycle Club, Feet First, but they aren’t well situated to work with more challenging schools. They are looking for organizations that are better positioned to work with those schools. When SDOT creates new programs they are often not successful, programs with walking and biking groups at challenging schools have not been successful and/or sustainable. She is collaborating with Rainier Beach Action Coalition, Rainier Beach For Youth, South East Seattle Education Coalition, among others. Richard asked how the STSC can connect with this effort. Would SDOT consider helping to fund Active Transportation Coordinator? Ashley says they don’t have funding for an FTE.

Funding was recently changed for Safe Routes to School. Red light camera funding was eliminated, however school zone camera revenues are increasing, so absolute dollar amount has not changed.

SDOT sees a low recidivism rate on school zone cameras. People who get a ticket do not frequently get a second in that location.

Mitchell manages ped and neighborhoods outreach. He is program owner for crossings program. Safe Routes to School Racial equity analysis.

Safe Routes to School is one of several programs in pedestrian team; Ashley is the entire Safe Routes to School team. Belen Herrera provides support and Brian Dougherty manages team. Belen might be assigned to start coming to this meeting.

**Transportation –** Bruce Skowyra

Transportation service standards for next year were introduced at the last board meeting. Once those are approved the new walk maps will be published. Scheduled to happen mid-January. Stephen and Bruce met with the superintendent, transportation is high on her list. She is working with KC, City, businesses to put thoughts together on how to change transportation.

Bruce noted that design team at Wing Luke includes a strong parent group. He hopes to keep it going as a PTA or parent group. For schools that don’t have PTA or parent group the design group is still in place. Mike Skutack works at schools capital improvements, he is has contact information for parent design group.

Bruce is director of facilities. His position in transportation is interim, duration is unclear.

**New Member Recruitment**We have had an application, possibly two, position will be filled shortly.

**School Pool**Richard brought up that other school districts have given KC names of all students, Seattle does not. This means Seattle needs a screening process internally, KC can’t do it.

Margaret would like to set up meeting with someone at SPS, and another school district using School Pool, possibly Redmond.

Pogo was tried at Mercer, but it didn’t move forward. If there was district support, if principles knew it was sanctioned by the district, that could really help.

**Committee Priorities for 2019**Pilot project for school road closures.

Stephen mentioned Viaduct closure. May push traffic onto side streets, slow buses, make ped crossings more dangerous. Biggest impact will probably be around accessing Magnolia, Queen Anne, Mercer, International District, Belltown. Transportation is responding by starting routes earlier to add more time for routes, beat traffic. May also move some stops. School Buses are exempt from tunnel tolls, maintenance vehicles too.

**Crossing guards**Net up 3 guards to 71 this month, plus two substitutes. The substitutes are both at Green Lake, secretaries at the school.

Yvonne talked to Mitchell asking for 1 laminated flyer for every school, that way she can put one up whenever a guard leaves.

Ashley asked if schools can laminate flyers. Stephen says this will work now. Yvonne mentioned that she also recently ordered new crossing guard uniforms.

Training school staff to be crossing guards might be a way to address staffing shortages due to sickness, etc. This could be additional cost to transportation because they may turn in additional time.

**Action: \_**Yvonne should send crossing guard flyer info to Stephen. Stephen will print and laminate copies for each school.

**Future Topics:**

* Crossing guard recruitment process – How to keep things from stalling when Yvonne is unavailable, get recruitment posters put up whenever there is a vacancy, increase pay to match bus monitors
* School staff training as crossing guards for backup
* SDOT street improvement requirements for schools – avoid schools paying for delivery truck turnarounds, focus school traffic studies on pedestrian safety instead of commuter capacity
* Annual Report to City Council
* Open committee position
* Superintendent & City Council outreach – new chief of operations coming mid-January
* SDOT Survey results report (Mitchell) possible to incorporate into annual report?
* Toolkit for schools to make traffic plans
* Speed Camera update with year over year comparison
* Several schools have unqualified people directing traffic and crossing students. How to communicate with schools to prevent this?
* SDOT’s complete assessment anticipated for early summer 2019. Dongho will return to give full assessment

Next meeting: Friday January 25th