



Amanda Barnett, Co-Chair
Casey Gifford, Co-Chair
Adam Bartz, Vice-Chair
Steve Kennedy, Vice Chair
Puja Shaw, Secretary
Mitch Brown
Rich Brown
Don Brubeck
Alexander Lew
Claudia Lewis
Sarah Margeson
Emily Paine

June 17, 2018

To: Dawn Schellenberg, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

Re: **Rainier RapidRide Project | Protected Bicycle Facilities**

Following the presentation from the Rainier RapidRide team at our March meeting, the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) strongly believes that the Project needs to re-visit its design to incorporate Protected Bicycle Facilities for the following reasons:

- We understand the Levy to Move Seattle is committed to **multi-modal projects**, including improvements to bicycle infrastructure. Safe bicycle facilities support a healthy, sustainable form of transportation that complements future modes, such as pedestrian and transit, along Rainier Avenue South, and should be prioritized over car use.
- The core values of Move Seattle are to create a safe, interconnected, vibrant, affordable, and innovative city; a continuous protected bicycle facility achieves all five pillars.
- SDOT has made a commitment to **equity**, and Rainier Avenue South is the single most important corridor in terms of access to and from Southeast Seattle due to topography and geography. There are currently ZERO Protected Bicycle Lanes (PBLs) in Southeast Seattle; when addressing Rainier Avenue South as the most dangerous street in Seattle, the ancillary benefits of bicycle facilities (traffic calming, community health benefits, augmentation of business activity, etc.) are smart and cost-effective investments into safety that also have the potential to improve the built environment and users' everyday experiences. If equity truly is a priority then Southeast Seattle, home to the majority of Seattle's low-income communities and communities of color, needs to be the most prioritized corridor in the City.

Our two major expectations for the overall design of the Rainier Avenue South corridor are:

1. Continuous Bicycle Facility Along Rainier Avenue South
 - o Wherever the width of the right-of-way will allow for it, there should be a continuous dedicated bike facility to meet the basic goals of the City as discussed above.
 - o Outreach materials did not show bicycle facilities along Rainier Avenue South anywhere south of South Massachusetts Street. The corridor between South Massachusetts Street and South Alaska Street should include a continuous PBL along Rainier Avenue South.

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

- City Council
Resolution 25534



Amanda Barnett, Co-Chair
Casey Gifford, Co-Chair
Adam Bartz, Vice-Chair
Steve Kennedy, Vice Chair
Puja Shaw, Secretary
Mitch Brown
Rich Brown
Don Brubeck
Alexander Lew
Claudia Lewis
Sarah Margeson
Emily Paine

2. Parallel Routes – South Dearborn Street to South Massachusetts Street.
 - o In the section of Rainier Avenue South where it has been demonstrated that the corridor is too narrow to safely include protected bicycle facilities, any parallel facilities must be top tier designs that have:
 - effective signage and intuitive routing;
 - diligent pavement treatment and maintenance;
 - strategies addressing difficult grade, such as ‘Bicycle Stairways’;
 - traffic calming measures to ensure that vehicle speeds are slow enough that bicyclists and pedestrians feel comfortable using those streets; and,
 - safe crossings that will ensure continuous connectivity throughout the corridor.

The quality of proposed protected bicycle facilities, whether on or parallel to Rainier Avenue South, cannot be inferior to the Vision Zero goals and SBAB members request the opportunity to participate in scouting rides and future meetings to provide additional input.

Sincerely,

SBAB



Amanda Barnett
Co-Chair



Casey Gifford
Co-Chair



Steve Kennedy
Vice Chair



Adam Bartz
Vice Chair



Puja Shaw
Secretary

Cc: Mayor Jenny Durkan
Ahmed Darrat, Transportation Policy Advisor
Mike O’Brien, Rob Johnson, Kshama Sawant, and Bruce Harrell; City Council
Serena Lehman, SDOT

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city’s planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

~ City Council
Resolution 25534