

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 4, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall Room 370 and Virtual via Microsoft Teams
SBAB Co-chair: Pete Bryan and Donna McBain Evans
Recorders: Simon Blenski, SDOT

Bicycle Advisory Board Members Present:

Seat	Members	Present	Absent
		✓	X
1	Yasir Alfarag	✓	
2	Max Green	✓	
3	Jose Nino	✓	
4	Andrea Lai, Secretary	✓	
5	Ty Bottorff	✓	
6	Doug Midgen	✓	
7	Donna McBain Evans	✓	
8	Christine Stawitz	✓	
9	Quinn Kelly	✓	
10	Peter Bryan	✓	
11	Joseph Roberts	✓	
12	Arya Blourchian, Get Engaged Member	✓	

Meeting Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by interim SBAB Chair Donna McBain Evans

- Donna: I want to welcome to Arya, the new Get Engaged Member on the board.

Public Comment:

- Bob Winship: Hi, I volunteer with West Seattle Bike Connections. We want to support your review of the Seattle Transportation Plan. We have lost the Spokane St Bridge which is the main bike connection to West Seattle. There is no clear opening in sight. The detour is on busy road with poor lighting. Met with SDOT last night and appreciate their work, but this whole emergency shows there are lack of facilities in south Seattle. We have suggested an alternative detour route along east along River Rd, crossing East Marginal Way S, going north on 6th Ave S to S Dawson S, and then zigzagging back to 1st Ave S. This route adds additional length, but avoids the busy intersection of 1st Ave S and East Marginal Way S.

Presentations:

Spokane St Swing Bridge and Bike Detour

Meghan Shepard, SDOT
Presentation attached

- Douglas: Any ideas on numbers of cyclists that previously used the low bridge? How much capacity does the water taxi have for bikes?
 - Meghan: Prior to the closure, 450 people/day were biking across the Spokane St Swing Bridge. The water taxi can carry 26 bikes.
- Douglas: What was the process to get this detour route installed?
 - Meghan: A group of SDOT team members got together to determine what this detour route would be. Many factors went into determining this route.
- Joseph: It's fascinating that this closure shines a bright light on how bad bike infrastructure is in south Seattle. It demonstrates how vulnerable our cycling network is. I'm hugely impressed on how fast SDOT jumped on this. We tend to move so slowly in this city and take years to figure out projects. What will SDOT do in the future to do more of this fast-moving infrastructure? At 1st Ave S Bridge, have you considered adjusting signal timing? Michigan to Marginal takes forever to cross as a pedestrian.
 - Monica: The team is constantly monitoring and adjusting the signal timing throughout the day. We also are monitoring under the 1st Ave S Bridge. Once we get it all launched, there will be crews going out 2 times a day to check/adjust cones, engineers will adjust as they see fit as well.
- Yasar: I want to thank SDOT for working on it so quickly. Mentioned there was a feedback form/survey going on. Wondering what will happen with this feedback if this is successful?
 - Meghan: We don't have a formal feedback form set up yet, but this is a good idea. People can send emails to westseattlebridge@seattle.gov for now. In terms of future applications like this, in the moment, we're learning from how this goes in real-time. It'd be good to reconnect after we're through this to get feedback from the community.

Seattle Transportation Plan Draft Network Maps

Board discussion

- Pete: SDOT has put out draft network maps for comment. I would like to propose that we divide up into small groups and review portions of the city that we are familiar with. Review should occur by the February 1 meeting where we can discuss the comments. After that a few people can compile all the comments and write a letter to SDOT by the comment deadline of February 21. I set up a Google spreadsheet to easily track our comments. Can you please share which Council District you would be willing to review?
 - District 1: Donna, Pete with support from West Seattle Bike Connections
 - District 2: Arya, Joseph, Max
 - District 3: Andrea, Joseph, Ty
 - District 4: Ty, Arya, Christine, Andrea
 - District 5: Pete
 - District 6: Jose, Andrea
- Pete: Thanks everyone!

Board Work Plan and 2023 Priorities

Board discussion

- Donna: I sent out a draft board work plan with guiding principles and 2023 priorities. The purpose of the document to set some priorities for this year and help guide our work. Does anyone have any initial comments? Otherwise, we can go through each section one by one.

- Donna: Any comments on the guiding principles?
 - Joseph: For #2 I think it is important to mention we want to both feel safe and be safe.
 - Christine: #4 doesn't say a lot. This would also be nice if our list had 10 principles instead of 11.
 - Pete: We could combine #4 and #6 since they are related.
 - Andrea: Agree, that it important to mention connectivity.
 - Doug: I think there is a lot of fluff here. I like the statements that are more direct.
 - Joseph: Donna I see a lot of people adding comments to the document. Also, setting our guiding principles is time well spent, but at the pace we are going we will not have time to get through the agenda.
 - Donna: Thanks Joseph. I recommend people review on their own by next week. Pete and I will review, clean up, and bring an updated version to the next meeting.
- Donna: Next are topics we will focus on this year including the STP and BMP tracking.
 - Pete: it would be good to have a few leads on some of these projects. The goal would be to have one well-informed person on these projects headed into the meeting to help guide the board's feedback.
 - Lake Washington Blvd: Quinn, Joseph, Doug, Max
 - Alaskan Way PBL: Donna
 - Vision Zero: Christine, Ty, Yasir
 - Aurora Corridor: Jose, Pete, Arya
- Donna: Next is avenues for influence. It seems important to development relationships with key Council Members and the Mayor's Office. For older members, has much work been done on this?
 - Andrea: Somewhat. Jose mentioned this last month, but we tried to start meeting with our home district Council Members. However, many of the people who met with their Council Members are now off the board. Need to think about challenges with continuity of board members. We also need to think about election cycles and continuity of Council Members.
 - Pete: I wonder if there is the potential for outreach with candidates.
 - Christine: Has the board ever made any endorsements?
 - Donna: Simon, do you have any guidance on how to approach this?
 - Simon: I wanted to highlight Clara's comment in the chat that everything listed in the avenues for influence section is quite a bit of work. It might be worth connecting with SNG and Cascade to leverage existing relationships versus starting from scratch. Want to recognize that this is a volunteer-run group, and you might not have the capacity to take on all this outreach.
 - Pete: Thanks Simon. We have started to reach out to SNG and Cascade, as well as the Pedestrian Advisory Board to start establishing those relationships.
 - Quinn: Could we also reach out to other organizations like Bike Works?
 - Donna: Yes, good idea. I remember when Director Spotts visited, he made the comment about bringing folks into the biking discussion that are not always at the table to find out what they think.
 - Pete: Does anyone have connections at Bike Works?
 - Joseph: I do and can reach out when we need to.
 - Joseph: I wanted to mention that I attended a meeting with Real Change that Director Spotts came to. The discussion focused on "cyclists of necessity", and I think Greg got some really good input from that conversation.

- Doug: Reaching out to Council Members is good but need to know who has announced not to run since they will be gone soon. I'll also mention that my Council Member Andrew Lewis has office hours. Not sure if others have them, but that is a good opportunity to connect.
- Donna: One last thing is to think about a board retreat. Simon said the board typically has retreat once a year.
 - Jose: Yes, we have done that in the past and it has been valuable. Last year we met in Beacon Hill and Clara came and gave us all some great advocacy tips. The main challenge is having someone take the lead organizing it.
 - Joseph: Not sure if you are volunteering, but I would offer to co-lead the retreat planning with you.
 - Jose: I like your energy! Let's plan on a retreat sometime this spring.
- Pete: On the topic of taking the lead, I wanted to mention that I plan to ride the Spokane St Bridge detour route this weekend. I will send out a poll to see who wants to ride along with me.
- Quinn: I think rides are great. We should consider doing that for all our projects, including the Georgetown to Downtown route.

Public Comments:

- Dan Burn: For the last 20 years I have ridden in Seattle 5 days a week. It's great you are looking at the BMP for planning, design, construction, but I want to ask where maintenance fits in? Many of the PBLs are covered in leaves. It would be great to have a goal to sweep every PBL once a month. Can SBAB tell SDOT that we want more sweeping or to fix bollards?

Board Business:

- Approval of December meeting minutes:
 - Quinn: Motion to approve.
 - Jose: Second.
 - All: Approve.
- LOC update:
 - Quinn: There was no meeting in January, so no update this month.
- Secretary position:
 - Andrea: I have served as secretary for many years and am looking for someone else to step up.
 - Joseph: I am happy and willing to serve if needed.
 - Max: Motion to approve Joseph as secretary.
 - Donna: Second.
 - All: Approve.
- STP workshop survey:
 - Simon: A reminder to fill out the survey by January 5 for the next route of STP workshops and open houses.
- Future agenda items:
 - Donna: In February we will want to circle back on the STP network map review and close out the discussion on the guiding principles.
 - Jose: A while back the Office of Sustainability gave a great presentation on funding they had for an electrification pilot program. It would be great to have them back.
 - Simon: I reached out to them in December but have not heard back yet. I will follow up.

- Announcements
 - Jose: I want to make a plug for coming in person maybe with time to hang out after the meetings.

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 by interim SBAB Chair Donna McBain Evans.