

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee

January 16, 2026

Members (X = present)

X	Beth Day	Volunteer
	Brooke Nelson	SPS, Safe Routes to School Coordinator
X	Diane Walsh	SDOT liaison
	Gary Davenport	SPD
X	Kelsey Rote	Secretary, Volunteer
X	Margaret McCauley	Volunteer
X	Maris Zivarts	Volunteer
X	Noa Guter	Volunteer
	Robbie Frankel	King County Metro
X	Ryan Baum	Chair, Volunteer
X	Stacy Denele Roberts	SPS, Field Staff and Crossing Guard Supervisor

Other attendees:

Steve Richard	SPS, Director of Transportation
Mary Holland	Just observing
Jennifer Warner Hayman	Just observing

Agenda:

1. Public comment
 - a. No one for public comment, two from the public just listening/observing
2. Approval of minutes and review of prior meeting action items
 - a. Approved
3. SDOT update
 - a. Safe Routes to School high school internship program application window closed yesterday
 - b. Partnering with Seattle Parks & Recreation and urban forestry program to site some trees (as a traffic calming measure in addition to other benefits), currently looking at Denny/Holden area
 - c. Walk boundary project: walk boundary was extended north near Queen Anne Elementary, walk boundary changes shape which projects are considered, can use heat maps to see where students are coming to and from
 - d. STSC
 - i. Reappointments will need to be approved by the Mayor's office
 - ii. Transportation Committee is now "Transportation, Waterfront, and Seattle Center" or "Safety, Transportation, Engineering Projects, Sports, and Experiences" (STEPS)
 1. Chair is Rob Saka, Vice Chair is Alexis Mercedes Rinck
 2. Asking for presentation Feb 5th
 - iii. Reminder – Jan 20th Freight Board meeting
4. SPS update

- a. Brooke – updates via email
 - i. Love Your Route Month is in February and so far Dunlap, Roxhill, Dearborn Park, and Eckstein have events scheduled. Sanislo is hosting a month-long campaign for their small walk group to Solid Ground Housing. Reach out for materials and event ideas if your family's school wants to get involved!
 - ii. More schools are reaching out to start walk buses to build community, prioritize safety, and encourage attendance for immigrant families. I'm working with other Safe Routes practitioners to develop best practices.
 - iii. Diane will give an update on the internship program. 😊
 - iv. Rolling out walk leader payments is a slow process. We are now ready administratively, and West Seattle Elementary and Bailey Gatzert are recruiting staff. We will develop training materials with school staff and walk leaders.
 - v. If your elementary has a walk group, please let me know the route! Outside of our priority schools, I'm sure there are other routes I'm not aware of so let me know if you have more info. I'm collecting data to put in a map, which will go public soon.
 - vi. **Ryan wants to follow up with Brooke on the formality of walk groups vs ad hoc/informal – how much detail does Brooke want/need and is there a threshold of # of people or something that qualifies it as a walk group**
- b. Stacey – updates via chat
 - i. Hired three new crossing guards and plan on having six more ready in about two weeks
- c. Steve
 - i. sent out notifications of walk boundary changes, there was some combined push back from BF Day Elementary parents
- 5. Re-engaging with Seattle City Counsel
 - a. **Ryan will reach out directly to councilmember Saka**
 - b. **Noa will reach out to councilmember Strauss and Rinck**
 - c. Maris is in Lin's district, so may reach out or be included in those reach outs
 - d. Ryan will see if Gary Davenport is still able to be an SPD representative or if someone else should take his place
- 6. Re-applications for committee members (if still interested)
 - a. **Diane will reach out individually**
- 7. Short-term traffic mitigations - SPD "hot spots" (and also SPD on the committee) - how does the committee feel at this point
 - a. "Hot spots" or police at or near schools
 - i. "Can be a useful tool – ex: can be a deterrent for parents blocking crosswalks during drop off/pick up
 - ii. Sometimes the only tool – ex: parents brandishing firearms on a school bus
 - iii. Are SPD officers effective for curbside behavior management (double parking, blocking crosswalk, etc.) or can SDOT folks make infrastructure changes to encourage better behavior? SDOT is limited in what they can do.
 - iv. **Stacy will collect info about specific interactions that crossing guards complain about** (parents running paddles, parking in crosswalks, etc.)
 - b. SPD on the committee
 - i. Can be helpful to answer certain questions, like stop paddle enforcement

- ii. They are technically an official committee member and should thus have a presence on the committee
 - iii. Helpful with traffic ticket violations conversation and talking about that potentially being done by non-SPD officers
 - iv. Helpful perspective on process issues
- 8. Creating subcommittee for school bus paddles – Ryan, Margaret, Noa, Steve