



School Traffic Safety Committee

October 18, 2024

To: Councilmember Rob Saka
Members of the City Council transportation committee

We are writing to express our ongoing support for the use of School Zone Traffic Cameras as temporary measures to identify locations where physical street improvements are necessary and for all revenue from these cameras being used for physical street improvements to ensure that students and their families are able to safely walk and roll to school. The photos taken by the cameras are reviewed by the Seattle Police Department or other trained staff before being sent. The use of School Zone cameras has been consistently shown to reduce high speed collisions and to be an effective safety measure.

The Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee was created in 1975 to connect the pieces of the mosaic of entities involved in creating and providing safe routes to school. The Committee includes representatives of public agencies and volunteer community members. This letter is on behalf of the volunteer members.

We appreciate and support ongoing efforts to make sure that traffic enforcement does not have unintended community-destabilizing effects. We respectfully point out that the place to handle the financial impact of traffic tickets on low-income drivers is through community-based justice options, not in abandoning efforts to make it safe for low-income students to walk in their neighborhoods.

In our October meeting, we reviewed SDOT's plan for expansion of the school zone camera program and we are optimistic that the City's traffic camera policy incorporates equity in new and future placement decisions. SDOT stated that this next set of cameras will be installed in a different set of neighborhoods and that SDOT's focus for high-needs areas is physical improvements.

The School Traffic Safety Committee urges the City Council Transportation Committee to support the Seattle Department of Transportation in using the data and funds from School Zone Speed Cameras to make improvements to our road network. The goal of the program has been and should be to change conditions and bend the trend toward people no longer driving in ways that result in tickets.

Sincerely,

Margaret McCauley

list the other volunteer members?

