

SBAB Comments to City Council Select Committee on Transportation Funding (Move Seattle Levy) Friday, May 29, 2015 City Council Chambers

I am Kristi Rennebohm Franz, Co-Chair of the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB). First of all, we want to thank all of you for your ongoing support to make Seattle a safer city for all.

As stewards of the City of Seattle Bicycle Master Plan, the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board is reviewing the proposed Move Seattle Levy. We understand the importance of this levy for implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan. We want to do a premium job of fulfilling our advisory responsibility on the proposed Move Seattle levy. I am here today on behalf of the board to invite each and all of you to communicate with us on any questions, concerns and comments you have about issues of bicycling within the Move Seattle levy.

We want to share our framework of reviewing the proposed levy using the five Bicycle Master Plan Goals.

**Safety:** How does the levy support organizing our streets and sidewalk spaces and places for people to safely ride bikes, walk, ride transit, drive cars and drive freight?

**Equity:** How does the levy provide funds equitably throughout the city, especially on our most dangerous streets and intersections? How does it support equity of access to affordable modes of transportation for residents?

**Connectivity:** How does the levy build connectivity [of bicycle facilities] throughout the city (an always important priority in the BMP)?

**Ridership:** How does the levy support more people of all ages and abilities to ride bicycles for all purposes - shopping, commuting to work and school, for families and friends getting together, and for health? How will it increase ridership for people who would like to ride bicycles but need safer facilities to do so?

**Livability:** How does the levy support and enhance access to places of work and school for all residents, support affordable housing, support sustainability and improve air quality? How does the levy reflect the needs of serving people? How does it address social justice, health and economic issues.

In reviewing the proposed Move Seattle Levy, SBAB already has identified consensus on the levy component of funding **Safe Routes to School**. We are identifying Safe Routes to School (SRTS) as a high priority and advise funding SRTS at a higher level than is currently proposed. In the work of developing the Bicycle Master Plan and in the work of the Safe Routes to School Task Force [which had two representatives from SBAB], we identified that because every neighborhood has a public school, funding Safe Routes to School creates a city wide implementation of safety for not only for all children and youth getting to and from home and school but provides safe routes for people of all ages who walk and ride bikes within and between neighborhoods. SBAB puts a high priority on funding safe and healthy bicycle and pedestrian transportation for our young people, our children and youth, for their present and their future.

Thank you.