



# City of Seattle

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

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*Seattle  
Freight  
Advisory  
Board*

Jeanne Acutanza

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The Seattle Freight Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the City in development of a functional and efficient freight system and on all matters related to freight and the impact that actions by the City may have upon the freight environment.

City Council Resolution  
31243

July 30, 2020

Mr. Sam Zimbabwe  
Director of Seattle Department of Transportation  
Seattle Municipal Tower  
700 5th Avenue, Suite 3800  
Seattle, WA 98104

Subject: Reconnecting West Seattle, Freight Project List: Seattle Freight Board Priorities

Dear Director Zimbabwe:

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in identifying and prioritizing improvements as interim investments for addressing the constraints we will experience during the long-term closure of the West Seattle Highrise Bridge. The Seattle Freight Advisory Board (SFAB) worked with SDOT staff to review a list of investments that are easy to implement (because they do not require time consuming approvals or permitting) and that are low cost.

The SFAB prioritized the Reconnecting West Seattle freight list attached. As these priorities are folded together with other neighborhood and bike priorities, we respectfully recommend that all efforts be made to preserve, protect, and enhance the unique Major Truck Streets throughout the city, and especially in the Duwamish. The region's economy and our community's quality of life depends on the safe and efficient delivery of freight and goods. Many water-dependent industries along the river rely on freight mobility; reducing roadway design standards that may not meet the needs of trucks and other modes on major arterials can create safety issues. We encourage all opportunities to promote safety, equity, and sustainability to support economic recovery and quality of life, as we integrate improvements for Duwamish/West Seattle neighborhoods, businesses, and industries.

Three points that provide context for our list of priorities:

- First, while improvements on East Marginal Way will substantially enhance freight, East Marginal Way is currently a 2- phase project in already in the design phase by SDOT. This on-going project is the highest priority for the Freight Board, and we have supported its development and funding using grants. The freight board would like this project to move along as planned. The short-term low-level investment that could be made available from WSHB would likely not

advance the project significantly. Our preference is to continue to advance the current project using the current funding strategy.

- Second, a few projects on the list are maintenance-type projects like restoring pavement markings that can be completed by city crews. These improvements should move forward without competing with other investments. These improvements should be done as part of maintenance crew activities.
- Third, we have sent you and your staff a letter about the revisions made, or proposed to be made, to West Marginal Way. While that project is on a different track, it has repercussions in the discussions of solutions for addressing anticipated, long-term congestion related to the WSHB closure.

Our list of improvements, attached, are prioritized for the safe and reliable movement of freight and goods. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our priorities and look forward to our continued coordination to accommodate freight during this long-term closure.

*Sincerely,  
Jeanne Acutanza*



*Chair,  
Seattle Freight Advisory Board*

CC: Heather Marx, SDOT Downtown Mobility Director  
Colin Drake, SDOT WSHB  
Adiam Emery, SDOT Transportation Operations Division  
Sarah Scherer, Office of Economic Development  
Venu Nemani, Freight Advisory Board staff