

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee
John Stanford Center, Room 2615
September 22, 2017

STWC Attendees

- ✓ Richard Staudt (SPS)
- ✓ Serena Lehman, Temporary Chair (SDOT)
- ✓ Kevin O'Neal (SPD)
- ✓ Carolyn Birkenfeld (SDOT SRTS Intern)
- ✓ Mary Ellen Russell (parent volunteer)
- ✓ Yvonne Carpenter (SPS)
- ✓ Margaret McCauley (parent volunteer)
- Shanti Breznau (parent volunteer)

Other Presenters: None

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

July 2017 Minutes: Approved

When reviewing actions taken regarding traffic patterns at Robert Eagle Staff, Richard would like to recommend that SDOT review its policy of requiring crosswalk observations to occur after school begins. He feels that this delays implementation too long.

Committee recommends that School Pool information be added to the Seattle Public Schools website.

August 2017 Minutes: Approved

Continuing action item: follow up with Charles Barnes regarding sharing materials with other schools.

Kevin O'Neal mentioned that there is currently some controversy regarding whether King County Sherriff or SPD should be issuing stop paddle citations. This is unlikely to impact stop paddle camera operations from the Schools' side.

Action: continue discussing stop paddle funds priorities in future meetings to be proactive.

Member Recruitment Update:

Recruitment has been slow. It may make sense to begin interviewing people on an ongoing basis.

Action: Richard will see if the advertisement can be included in an upcoming SPS newsletter.

Action: Margaret will follow up with Metro regarding the delay in appointing their representative. Serena will invite the representative to attend as a member of the public until the paperwork is finalized.

Packets for Schools:

Margaret suggests that there are probably already tools that could help schools formalize traffic patterns, such as SDOT application materials for temporary street closures or temporary one way, etc.

Formalizing these tools into a packet that each school can use would allow schools and parent volunteers to consistently enforce expectations and point to the established process to deflect parent complaints.

Some schools have parents able to do this. Some schools do not have enough parent volunteers to enforce this, teachers would need to do it and would require a stipend. This would potentially be a good use of stop paddle funds, but the funding mechanism is unclear. It could possibly be done through the safety patrol, but that would require certified teachers to participate. It could make sense for staff to receive a stipend for this, but it would require a new formalized process to allocation that funding.

Serena suggests that using stop paddle funds at low volunteer schools to fund school safety patrol staff stipend. Some principals are reluctant to allocate funds to this because it comes out of the school's general budget. An outside source from stop paddle funds to increase equity is a potential project for stop paddle funds.

Kevin O'Neal mentions that schools call SPD asking for help with traffic. When he asks if there has been a packet of traffic information sent out to parents, frequently schools say they have not.

Actions:

1. Develop and distribute a packet of all of the tools that schools need to develop circulation plans and communicate with the parent community and neighbors. This will require coordination between SPS, SPD, and SDOT to centralize tools that already exist. Include feet first toolkit information and lessons learned from Eckstein and Jane Adams. Richard, Kevin, and Serena will coordinate info. Carolyn will develop draft packet for review at next committee meeting with Margaret's assistance.
2. After packet has been implemented, assess success and then return to the idea of coordinating parent volunteers and/or funding stipends for teachers and or staff to take a more active role in traffic management.
3. Serena to explore options for adding temporary restricted turning signs. Can this be justified only with collisions, or can schools apply based on traffic issues? Could they have a sign up, and then apply to be allowed to temporarily block access via a sandwich board etc.?

Wing Luke Move:

Wing Luke is moving to original Van Asselt space for 2018 school year to allow construction. SDOT is considering improvements around original Van Asselt. Wing Luke is a priority school for SDOT from a standpoint of existing safety and equity issues. However, original Van Asselt building has been continuously used as a school, and Richard believes that it is likely better situated from a traffic safety standpoint.

Action: Richard to follow up regarding plans for this space after Wing Luke leaves.

Crossing Guard Updates:

Half a guard added at Alki, half a guard at Queen Anne, a guard at Baily Gatzert. Lost a guard at Baily Gatzert and Salmon Bay. Adams doesn't have any guards. Lost a guard at Roxhill.

Lost the guard at Cascadia & Eagle Staff (Aurora and 90th) due to concerns about safety with vagrants. Action: SPD will assess targeting that location for patrol, Kevin will follow up on this.

Metro transit and King County PD could police the bus stop there.

This should be revisited in the future to consider how Safe Routes to School funding might be used to fund CPTED safety improvements.

Serena is not aware of any conversations with SDOT/WSDOT around improving Aurora in a way similar to Shoreline's improvements.

Action: Serena will share crossing guard flyer with school communities missing crossing guards.

Actions: Kevin will explore the idea of adding sandwich board ads to intersections that are missing crossing guards. Yvonne and Carolyn will coordinate on this. Committee will review draft at next meeting.

Safety Camera Stats:

None for July or August. Kevin will send electronically in future to reduce paper.

Action: Mary Ellen will develop spreadsheet that tracks tickets compared to days in school over time to facilitate understanding trends in driver behavior at different locations. Kevin will send traffic data in advance of monthly meetings to allow time to add it to spreadsheet.

Future Topics:

SDOT mini grant program

Continued bus paddle money discussion

School traffic plan and implementation packets

Crossing Guard Signage

Rescheduling fall meetings that conflict with holidays – bring calendars!

Next meeting October 27th