

**Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee
John Stanford Center, room 2750
September 13, 2019 Minutes**

STSC Attendees

- ✓ Richard Staudt (SPS)
- ✓ Mary Ellen Russell, Chair (parent volunteer)
- ✓ Margaret McCauley (pedestrian safety advocate)
- ✓ Kevin O'Neill (SPD)
James Wells (Metro)
- ✓ Jenny Meulenberg (SDOT, corridors and Ped transportation planner)
- ✓ Marilyn Firman (citizen-at-large)
Lee Bruch (citizen-at-large)
- ✓ Yvonne Carpenter (SPS transportation crossing guard manager)
- ✓ Charlie Simpson (bicycle advocate)
- ✓ Brian Dougherty (SDOT)

Other Presenters/Public

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Last Month's Minutes

Jenny, recent addition to SDOT, will be new STSC liaison. Welcome aboard!

Action_ Brian will get Jenny access to the STSC email.

Brian checked with Metro about getting an active representative and had no response.

Action_ Mary Ellen will check with Mitchell about Metro connection.

Last week KIRO 7 did a couple of spots about crossing guard needs, Seattle neighborhood Greenways sent out information about crossing guard needs.

ACTION_ Brian will follow up with Ashley about finding the right community group and help make the connection to get a walking school bus started for Emerson Elementary. Margaret will do SDOT grant paperwork if needed.

ACTION_ Mary Ellen will follow up with Steven Richard to set up meeting Oct. or Nov. to analyze how many bus routes might be reduced if additional crossing guards could be hired to open the more Walk Boundaries.

Richard reached out to Victor Colman at the Childhood Obesity Committee, copcwa.org, to renew that contact but no response.

ACTION_Richard will ask transportation if there is any history of a collaboration with afterschool groups allowing other students to walk along, and how it might get started.

ACTION_Richard will reach out to staff/students at Franklin High School about joining STSC for 2 years, possibly to get credit in Social Justice curriculum, or to count toward community service hours.

ACTION_Mary Ellen will schedule meeting w/ SDOT, SDCI, SPS Capital Projects re: code interpretation. She will suggest next STSC meeting, but schedule a separate meeting if needed.

ACTION_Jenny will print name placards for herself and Charlie.

August minutes approved.

Crossing Guard Update

Kevin went to crossing guard training, spoke to a crossing guard who has been there for 25 years. Kevin discussed when SPS traffic should be called versus SPD, and non-emergency vs. 911. There were 10 or 12 new people training.

Margaret asked if SPD could provide support, maybe mounted police, to increase visibility where at intersections where crossing guards have been hit. Kevin suggested motorcycles.

ACTION_Kevin will check on the possibility of getting motorcycle police to do outreach at intersections where guards have been hit or had near misses.

This month lost 5 guards, 1 moved, 8 gained. Will interview 3 more next week, 2 have already been interviewed and are waiting for fingerprints to clear to be trained, several more are waiting for interviews.

Media attention to the open crossing guard positions resulted in a surge in applications.

37 regular posts open, 9 partial posts. More people are interested in morning, afternoons are harder to fill.

SDOT Update – Brian & Jenny

Roxbury Street beacon will be operational by 23rd of this month. Jane Addams & John Roberts are getting a sidewalk projects, also Hazel Wolf and Lowell Meaney.

Brian says that the ideal time to do a walkthrough for renovated schools and give SDOT a heads up about needed improvements is 3 years in advance. We can ask Jenny or another SDOT rep to

join the walkthrough. This will give SDOT time to design in advance of construction. Brian doesn't understand exactly how Queen Anne fell through the cracks. They had the same problem at Robert Eaglestaff, it took 2 years to get a crosswalk painted in front of the main entrance. The STSC and SDOT want to keep these problems from happening in the future so that new schools open with basic street amenities like painted crosswalks at the main entrance already in place.

Brian is working at SDOT to change the requirement for crosswalks. For a marked crosswalk they just need to demonstrated need, can happen in about 4 months.

Brian mentioned that for Northgate there is a problem with ex conditions – kids use parking lot across the street to park mid-block.

ACTION_Jenny will develop a checklist of items to consider when doing walk throughs so that there is a consistent form for each one and we can make sure items are not falling through.

Three years out is also a good time to look at circulation plans as they are being developed. The committee will talk to design teams 3 years out, then committee will do site visits about 6 months out to look at signage, etc.

Top priorities to review design are Northgate, Kimball, Viewlands, West Seattle Elementary, West Woodland.

ACTION_Richard will line up 1 design team to come to each of next 7 meetings until we are caught up, coordinate about the schedule with Marilyn.

Speed Zone Camera Update 2018-2019 School Year – Mary Ellen

Updated speed zone camera data for 2018-2019 was presented. It shows some successes where tickets have been substantially reduced. STSC wants to look at those locations and figure out what prompted the change so that it can be replicated.

The speed zone camera data also show some areas with increasing tickets, and that Mercer Middle continues to have by far the highest number of tickets.

Mercer Middle will be on the schedule for October 18th. Jenny will check with Ashley Rhead about the Mercer Middle project.

ACTION_Mary Ellen will send Jenny speed zone data. Jenny will look into flagged items and discuss next month.

Open Sidewalks Partnership

Action: _Richard will find out how we might distribute Open Sidewalks info to parents to help provide more data. He'll think about what approach might be most effective. Are there existing programs we could piggyback off of? Existing social activities? Etc.

Action: _Mary Ellen will coordinate w/ Jenny to get GIS walk boundary data to Open Sidewalks.

Pilot Project for Road Closure

Charlie contacted Ashley Rhead asking about the process for road closure permits around schools. Ashley said SRTS program is currently developing a pilot project for this.

Richard said that he knows of a school that would be very interested in pursuing this. He is reluctant to name that school out of concern of encouraging vigilante signage placement, but will share the info once SDOT has a clear path to get a permit.

Pilot Project for School Pool

Green Lake Elementary would like SDOT to take a look at signage, sidewalks around the school.

Action: _ Mary Ellen will schedule a meeting with Principal, Brian, Jenny

Margaret suggested getting police outreach (bike and or pony) for Walk to School day, October 2nd. Kevin said this is doable, will need to get schools lined up ASAP.

This could also be done for Bike to School Day in May.

Richard suggested Rising Star. Emerson would also be a good candidate. Kevin would like to pick 1 school in each precinct. Yvonne suggests Kimball because a lot of kids walk, and Viewlands. Rising Star might be stretched too thin right now because of construction. There are 5 precincts.

Action: _ Richard will send request to SPS admin.

Action: _ Margaret will contact Seattle Council PTA to distribute to individual schools and PTA's, then follow up with those that respond.

Action: _ Kevin will get approval from Captain O'Donnell.

Action: _Marilyn will revise the action plan based on input from meeting.

Action: _Kevin will reach out to Ashley to clarify criteria and process for placing new speed zone cameras.

The next meeting will be October 18th.

Future Topics:

- Speed Zone Camera – flagged items (Jenny, October)
- Bus stop paddle funds – 2nd year accounting (November)
- SDOT micro-mobility program: how does planning around this affect schools? How can micro-mobility infrastructure be leveraged to improve SRTS? (December)
- Mercer Middle School (15th & Columbia) shelved safety project – invite middle school reps and SDOT rep. from capital projects group (Oct)
- School staff training as crossing guards for backup
- Coordination meeting w/ SDOT, SDCI, Schools Capital Projects to avoid future box truck turnarounds on school property (October)
- Criteria and process for placing new speed zone cameras (Jenny and Kevin will check w/ Ashley, November)
- Circulation Plan Reviews – 1 each month