

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee
John Stanford Center, room 2750
October 18, 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)
Jennie 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

Danny Bell

Mellissa Mulhern, nurse in North Shore school district, working on a student injury prevention project in King County.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Last Month's Minutes

Jennie now has access to the STSC email.

Mary Ellen checked with Mitchell about Metro connection. No word back yet, but she will reach out again.

Brian asked Ashley Rhead about finding the right community group to get a walking school bus started for Emerson Elementary. Ashley reached out to Margaret asking her to do it, which she isn't in a position to do. Margaret asked Steven Richard if anyone in the main office can help, he said no, bringing us full circle on this.

ACTION_Richard will forward walking school bus info from Ashley to Emerson staff so that someone on site will have it if a parent is up for leading it.

Lee: It seems like there needs to be a shift in the mindset, that transportation is about how to get kids to schools, not how to get buses to schools.

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

Richard asked transportation if there is any history of a collaboration with afterschool groups allowing other students to walk along, and how it might get started. He said they had no idea what he was talking about.

ACTION_ Richard will explore whether SPS can do something to limit liability for afterschool groups to allow other students to walk along with them. For example, could SDOT grants provide a small fee to groups in exchange for this service? Then they could officially sign kids up and have them sign their standard waiver. Or is there some other way that SPS could keep this liability?

Richard reached 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. They don't have the social justice class that might have given credit for this anymore, class schedules make it too hard.

ACTION_ Mary Ellen will schedule meeting w/ SDOT, SDCI, SPS Capital Projects re: code interpretation.

Jennie printed name placards for herself and Charlie.

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.

Richard reached out to school design teams who said they would come to us when designs are far enough along.

ACTION_ Richard will follow up about schedule for STSC visits with each design team.

Mary Ellen sent Jennie speed zone data. Jennie looked into flagged items and the group will discuss in November.

Action: _Mary Ellen will circle back with Open Sidewalks and Richard to figure out how we might distribute Open Sidewalks info to parents to help provide more data.

Mary Ellen coordinated w/ Jennie to get GIS walk boundary data to Open Sidewalks.

Mary Ellen met with Brian, Jennie and staff at Green Lake Elementary to update signage around the school. Brian said he would refer broken sidewalks for replacement and that it would take about a year.

One school expressed interest in having police officers participate in a walk to school day event.

Action: _Richard will look back at which school this was, we will reach back out for Bike to School Day in May.

Margaret contacted Seattle Council PTA to distribute Walk to School Day info to individual schools and PTA's. No response.

Kevin confirmed that police participation in Walk to School Day or Bike to School Day would be approved by Captain O'Donnell.

Kevin asked Ashley to clarify criteria and process for placing new speed zone cameras. She confirmed that the process is through SDOT, not the police department.

September minutes approved

S Henderson St and 14th Ave S, speeder coming off freeway make the intersection dangerous for kids at Concord Elementary School – Robin Schwartz

People come off 509, so speed is often high. This is crossing for Concord and bus stop for Emerson. The roadway is very wide until this intersection, so people don't slow down before getting to intersection. SDOT scored, this intersection comes in at 15.

Action: _Mary Ellen will follow up with SDOT to ask about what improvements are possible. Traffic calming on 14th Ave S prior to the intersection could help with the issue.

Action: _Kevin will request traffic enforcement for speed and running red light.

Crossing Guard for John Marshall at Ravenna and 68th – Nicole Silver, principal (via phone)

SDOT scores 68th & Ravenna as a 13.

John Marshall doesn't have a published walk map, but nonetheless because Bagley is close ¼ of kids are in walk zone. Parents turn around at 68th & Ravenna to drop off kids. Parents say there have been near misses of kids in walk. The school is having staff help kids get into the school safely from parking lot, but there aren't enough staff to also monitor this location. Students are crossing 68th, not Ravenna.

12 buses let off on Ravenna.

Parents are requesting a crossing guard at this location, crossing 8th.

The former guard at Bagley is located at Greenwood now.

Action: _Mary Ellen will follow up with SDOT to get score for 68th.

Action: _Mary Ellen and Lee will come observe during morning drop-off period, Kevin will join. Tuesday morning, the 22nd.

One solution is to encourage parents to drop off from Oswego.

15th Ave NE at Roosevelt

SDOT is re-doing this corridor, adding protected bike lanes. They are asking for a recommendation from this committee to flip the one-way directions of 66th and 68th to allow 68th to go eastbound and move the school bus loading there. The committee agrees that this makes sense, and would love to add our voices of support.

Action: _Richard will email asking exactly what kind of statement they want from the committee supporting this. If needed, Lee will draft the letter.

Crossing Guard Update

Yvonne had to arrive late because she was filling in for a bus monitor.

Lost guards at Bryant, Broadview Thompson (but got a new application for this one), moved one from Campbell to Kimball.

New AM guard at South Shore, that post is full now. New half guard at Emerson. New guard at Viewlands. New guard at Jane Adams/Rogers. 2 guards splitting post at Whittier. New guard at Cascadia & Eaglestaff (92nd and Aurora). New guard at MLK.

Total lost for month: 3

Total gained: 9

Up 6 positions. Some of these are still from September application bump, some are new applications.

Currently 43 open positions, 9 half and 34 full. Yvonne has a few crossing guards on-ramping, but needs to focus on bus monitors next month.

No movement on hiring additional staff to manage crossing guards and bus monitors. New transportation manager was hired, but doesn't work on Fridays.

Arbor Heights is a hard place to keep a guard, 35th & 104th.

Crossing guard at Tops got hit by a bicycle running the red light. She had a concussion. Eastlake & Luisa St. She will hopefully be back in a few weeks.

Action: _Mary Ellen will ask Jennie to confirm that posters are up to date at intersections missing guards.

Revise Annual Work Plan

Action: _Marilyn will consolidate SDOT's old annual work plan with her draft and send it to Mary Ellen. Mary Ellen will make it a google doc so that everyone can edit it as new items come up.

Review Site Plan Checklist

Jennie developed a draft checklist.

Comments:

Add category about ADA accessibility. Move question about curb ramps there. Add boxes for accessible sidewalks, and whether there are continuous accessible routes to entrances. Add question about ADA access from handicap parking.

Revise format as a check list with actual boxes to check, including instructions to refer missing infrastructure to SDOT. Avoid open ended and nebulous items.

Add boxes to highlight changes in circulation around the school, such as moving the front entrance or bus loading. Flag how items like this might change neighborhood circulation. Add box for reversing one-way streets.

Add questions about bike parking: school bike parking – near entrance, visible from inside, under cover.

Action: _Mary Ellen will add these items to spreadsheet, send digital copy to committee for additional comments.

Kevin has approval to do safety patrol training at schools, but hasn't done it yet. If Yvonne hears from schools they should contact Kevin.

Action: _Margaret will invite middle school reps and SDOT to talk about Mercer Middle School (15th & Columbia) shelved safety project at next meeting (or December).

November 8th is next meeting. Meetings through May will be in room 2765.

Future Topics:

- Speed Zone Camera – flagged items (Jennie, November)
- 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 (November – Margaret confirm)
- 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 (November)
- Criteria and process for placing new speed zone cameras (Jennie and Kevin will check w/ Ashley, November)
- Circulation Plan Reviews – 1 each month
- SDOT shared mobility (December)
- SRTS action plan/project list (November)
- Meet with new Transportation Director, Jeff Bronstein