

Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee
John Stanford Center, room 2765, most attendees via Skype
March 13, 2020 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)
Danny Bell

Other Presenters/Public

- Mitchell Lloyd, King County Metro Schools lead
- ✓ Dani Hurula, KC Metro
- ✓ Emily Butler Ginolfi, Lichten Springs principal
Clara Cantor, Seattle Neighborhood Greenways
- ✓ Brian Fabella, SPS capital projects
- ✓ Brian Ho, TCF Architecture

Public Comment

No public comment.

Last Month's Minutes

ACTION_ Mary Ellen will continue following up with Ashley Rhead to find out what is happening on 90th near Sacajawea.

Richard will connected with Jeff to get Paula on board with walk boundary sub-committee meeting. – Richard did, but we probably need to put on hold. Plan to meet right after May & June STSC meetings.

Jennie took West Seattle bus stop issue to SDOT to see if there is another intervention that might make sense at Marine View Dr SW and 45th Ave SW. SDOT said it would make sense for concerned parents to do Your Voice Your Choice application for speed bumps. SDOT will also put up additional 25mph signs in that area.

ACTION_ Jennie will summarize SDOT recommendations for Marine View Dr SW and 45th Ave SW in email and send to Mary Ellen to forward on to concerned parents.

Jennie took draft Northgate design to SDOT to get Safe Routes to School planning to respond to changing traffic conditions around the new school. Jennie talked to Ashley Rhead, Brian Dougherty, Summer Jawson about this. Ashley wanted to clarify whether buses are loading on 1st. Buses are planned to load on 1st. SDOT supports the design with parking area having only 1 entrance. David Burgesser at SDOT has a project with SPU for sidewalks and drainage in the area. Summer is going to look at making sure greenways connect to the school.

ACTION_Jennie will follow up with Ashley asking about SDOT *response* to changes in circulation at Northgate elementary to ensure that crosswalks, curb ramps, etc., responding to new circulation patterns are in place prior to the new building being occupied.

Last month's meeting minutes were approved.

SDOT Update:

Mode Survey Support

SPS High School Climate Change Events

STSC Appointment and Reappointments

Follow up on Catherine Blaine: a crosswalk is going to be signed and marked on northern leg of 32nd & Smith.

Mode survey is in flux with school adjourned for 6 weeks. With schools out until April that complicates it, but SDOT is hoping to have it happen if schools are in session. SDOT is willing to fund incentive.

ACTION_Jennie will ask Brian and Ashley what the budget for the mode choice incentive will be.

ACTION_Mary Ellen will talk to Jeff Bronstein about getting mode choice survey communication out to principals with the understanding that SPS expects compliance.

Jennie heard that some schools are doing climate change events, one is doing Flip Your Trip, which is aimed at helping people get out of single occupancy vehicles. The Flip Your Trip team asked whether other schools would also be interested in having them present. Jennie's understanding is that this can be appropriate for most ages. The schools they are already planning to present at are high schools. Schools are out of session. We'll revisit in the fall.

Jennie is still working to confirm date for STSC Annual report presentation to City Council. We can do appointments and reappointments at the same meeting. Appointments are considered to start at the beginning of April.

Lee needs to consider whether he can commit to another 3 year term. Given that he is already an active member of the committee who has been a consistent presence for 3 years the

committee supports the idea of Lee continuing even if he isn't sure that he can finish another full term.

ACTION_ Mary Ellen, Lee, and Margaret will send Jennie a resume and bio within 2 weeks for inclusion in the reappointment packet.

15th & Columbian Open House Recap

Mary Ellen attended a small open house for 15th and Columbian that ended up being just a couple of people. Marilyn changed her plans so that she could attend a larger open house hosted by SDOT the following week.

The open house had 40 plus people. It started out with people being angry about the prospect of traffic slowing down around 15th and Columbian. Marilyn said that the STSC is really happy with traffic being slowed down, and explained that this area has the highest number of school speed camera tickets in the City, with 1 camera averaging 900 each month. She pointed out that this is very dangerous for middle school students and reducing speeding here will make students safer. She said people actually clapped. After that much of the discussion was about slowing traffic for safety, so Marilyn felt that it was good that she was there. Overall Marilyn thought the public opinion was very supportive of the meeting.

There are no more drop-in sessions scheduled, pretty much all meetings have been cancelled due to corona virus.

ACTION_ Jennie will ask Adonis whether there is any additional public outreach for 15th & Columbian where an STSC presence would be helpful.

Draft Annual Report

Margaret is getting help from a friend to format the report in InDesign. We are going to add updates on topics from last year's report.

Marilyn, Lee, and Charlie have reviewed the report. Jennie has reviewed, will send comments to Margaret. After another round of revisions STSC will send to Fred Podesta and Jeff Bronstein.

ACTION_ Richard will review the report and send comments to Margaret ASAP.

ACTION_ Jennie will send her comments on the annual report to Margaret ASAP.

Webster Circulation - Brian Ho and Brian Fabella, Principal Emily Butler Ginolfi

Licton Springs is moving to Webster. Webster school is on a small lot. SPS owns east half of lot, Parks owns west half (Webster Park). Traffic calming at 30th and 68th was recommended during departures process. Curb ramps were installed at this intersection as well, not by SPS, so likely

by SDOT. There hasn't been a school active at this site since 1980. The school is currently 175 students. New school will have capacity for 350.

The existing 1908 building is being renovated, there is an existing 1930 building, and a new gym addition is being built. The new primary entrance will be on the N side between the ex building and the gym addition. There's a small parking lot there w/ ADA stalls. Bus loading will be on the north on NW 68th St. The departures process has been completed for this. Mary Ellen asked Brian to bring future projects to STSC earlier in the process so that they can give comments when there is still more opportunity for changes. Brian agreed that for future projects SPS will bring projects to STSC earlier in the process so that comments can be incorporated before things get locked in.

Parent drop-off/pick-up will be on the south side, NW 67th SE. There is another entry on the S between the gym and the 1980 building. No pick-up or drop-off will be located at the old front entrance on 30th Ave NW.

At least for the first year there will be full busing for the students. It is an option school with a very wide boundary. There is not a lot of pick-up or drop-off, and the current student population is not located near the Webster building.

Lee asked whether there is any discussion of making NW 67th St one-way west bound. This has not been considered.

Heffron did a transportation study. In the transportation technical report: SPS anticipates 5 full size buses and 2 smaller buses at least to start when all kids are bused. SPS & First student are doing a test run this week to check that there is enough room for bus loading as shown on the plan.

The SIP improvements are complete. Design team is coordinating signage with Kelley Hull at SDOT. The technical report recommends designating 2-3 parking spaces in front of the park as short term parking for park users.

SDOT installed the traffic circle at 68th and 30th. Richard asked whether the traffic circle will impede buses from being able to go through the intersection at 68th and 30th.

Richard was also concerned by the location of the parent drop off that faces a 6' retaining wall. Many parents don't feel comfortable dropping off where they can't see kids walking into the school. Emily said the school is going to post staff at the drop-off location to help ease this concern. There are stairs into the playground off NW 67th that will make a good location for parents to observe kids enter fence. Because of site grade there is no access to the site from NW 67th that doesn't have stairs.

Because wheelchair access can only happen from the parking lot on NW 68th St it is important that bus staging does not conflict with the parking lot entrance. Currently they are close together, and if bus staging needs to extend farther west it would conflict.

Lee asked whether the team had considered having drop-off happen on 30th Ave NW at the 1930 building. The design team said this doesn't leave much room for parents and kids to congregate, there is more staging area at the playground. The older door for the 1930 building will be a locked egress door.

The design team is happy to walk the site with STSC. Brian Fabella will coordinate that with Lee and other committee members.

The park will be accessible to the school for additional outdoor space during the school day. The school will need to manage how kids are allowed to access the park because it is open to the public. This situation of schools using parks exists at a number of sites.

Currently the only marked crosswalk is on 32nd at NW 68th St. Curb ramps are missing at 30th NW & NW 67th St.

The design team installed new curb along 67th as part of SIP requirements.

ACTION_Mary Ellen will forward Webster traffic study and transportation management plan to STSC.

ACTION_Jennie will talk to Brian and Ashley to get crosswalks and curb ramps installed around Webster before school starts.

ACTION_Lee will coordinate a site walk through with Brian Fabella and other committee members.

Jennie said SDOT is still reviewing the crosswalk warrant rule that makes it hard to install crosswalks prior to schools opening. Webster park is used by a preschool, so the crosswalk warrant rule may not interfere with installing crosswalks because they can time their observation to coincide with times that kids are there.

Next Meeting:

April 10th. Meetings through school closure will be via skype. Public attendance is possible at John Stanford. The room is large enough to provide space between attendees. That will be in room 2765.

May will be in room 2765.

Future Topics:

- Follow up on coordination meeting w/ SDOT, SDCI, Schools Capital Projects to avoid future box truck turnarounds on school property (April)
- Circulation Plan Reviews
- Annual Report
- Northgate contractor circulation (August or September)
- Flip Your Trip presentations at additional schools (August)
- Viewlands Site Plan Review (April)

Additional Meetings/Items

- Schedule annual report to City Council for May (Jennie)
- Schedule Walk Boundary Subcommittee – tentatively scheduled for 10:30 at John Stanford Center May 8th and June 12th.