

## Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee May 27, 2016 Minutes

### Attendees

Committee Members:

- √ Shanti Breznau (Citizen At-Large)  
Yvonne Carpenter (Seattle Public Schools)
- √ Jen Cole, Chair (Pedestrian Safety)
- √ Brian Dougherty (Seattle Dept. of Transportation)
- √ An Huynh, Secretary (Citizen At-Large)
- √ Shannon Koller (Cascade Bicycle Club)
- √ Rich O'Neill (Seattle Police Department)  
Ashley Rhead (Seattle Dept. of Transportation)
- √ Alyssa Smith (Parent Representative)
- √ Richard Staudt (Seattle Public Schools)
- √ Cathy Tuttle (Seattle Neighborhood Greenways, Citizen At-Large)

### Other Presenters:

Jason Kasube, SPD Parking ([jason.kasube@seattle.gov](mailto:jason.kasube@seattle.gov))

Nancy Pullen-Seufert, National Center for Safe Routes to School ([pullen@hsrc.unc.edu](mailto:pullen@hsrc.unc.edu))

### Public Attendees:

### April Minutes: Approved

### Past to-do's

- Jen reached out to Pat Craft about bus loading zone: The moving of school bus zones already happened and an SDOT representative has installed new signs for the buses. Bus drivers have also improved their habits. However, Pat Craft is still not satisfied with the intersection. He wrote a letter to Jen Cole stating that he is laser-focused on bringing four way stop to the intersection.
- Cathy Tuttle to do a month-to-month comparison for our next meeting and send Rich O'Neill an email - Cathy has done regression analysis on the Safety Camera Stats and will continue to run more tests. Based on preliminary findings, speed cameras seem to catch a steady stream of fast drivers, but when officers are physically there, the rates of fast drivers actually decrease.
- Jen will put together crossing guard subcommittee will report back at May meeting – complete.

**ACTION:** An to send Shanti Breznau Corrie Rosen's contact info.

**ACTION:** Cathy Tuttle to look over committee ordinance about titles and representation on STSC minutes.

### SRTS National Conference takeaways

Cathy Tuttle provided the committee a summary of notable takeaways from the SRTC National Conference that took place in March 2016. These takeaways included:

The Allegiance Project from Cleveland, OH is an example of a Walking School Bus program. The program is paid for by the National Institute of Health to do analysis of the physical and emotional safety of elementary school students on their walks to and from school, with potential benefits including reduced tardiness, absenteeism, and disruptive classroom behavior. The project focuses on signing kids up in low-income schools. People who lead walking school buses are paid minimum wage and guaranteed minimum hours. This project is a way of building community. So far, 800 kids are registered in Cleveland. Money from drivers is coming from district. Cathy was impressed by organizational and data collecting methods.

SRTS programs can be housed under many jurisdictions throughout the country such as under public health or privately.

The evidence is out there – If children don't feel safe, they arrive at school with anxiety for at least the first few hours. The trip to school for children is important. We want children to feel safe getting to school so it's important that we incorporate this into our structure.

SRTS is also talking about how to make cities generally safer. The discussion is beginning to become more around how to make cities safer for children and for everyone. This is taking SRTS on a more systemic approach.

Many committees shy away the topic of kids having to walk through very violent places in order to get to school. There are very real fears and experiences. Anxiety producing for parents and kids. This could be acknowledge in our SRTS committee.

There is the potential to do a crime statistics layover on SRTS topics. We can look at street crime impacts on routes to school. If you go to [www.seattle.gov](http://www.seattle.gov) and go to the SPD link, you can search crimes within a certain time block. Crimes are also broken down by type, which are based on dispatched calls and relies on things being reported. This might not cover all the crimes that happen but it is a place to start.

### **Nancy Pullen-Seufert from the NCSRTS**

The committee heard from Nancy Pullen-Seufert, Director at National Center for Safe Routes to School (NCSRTS), about current efforts at the national level about safe routes of school projects and initiatives. The Center provides technical assistance to NC SRTS program, located in a very rural area.

NCSRTS also provides data collection services on walking and biking trends. It distributes parent surveys (900,000 parent surveys to 6000 schools from 2007 – 2014) to understand what is going on at a national level. However, this is not a representative sample of schools. The surveys are a process for communities so they can report their progress. The committee suggests that making surveys shorter, mobile-friendly, and keeping questions

consistent year after year could make the data system more self-serviced. Incentives for parents could also boost survey participation. Some states require participation, and sometimes there are local incentives. Online or paper forms work well – it depends on the school.

Based on these surveys, between 2007 and 2013 there was an increase in walking to school (11.5% to 15.7% walking). Between 2013 and 2014 the numbers really leveled off. This might be due to the tapering off of federal funding, although it's hard to tell what a year to year change means. Biking has not changed that much since 2007 – very small percentage (1 to 2%).

There will be a push to encourage mayors to celebrate Walk To School Day this Fall, an annual event since 1997. This effort is working from the Mayor's Challenge and also Vision Zero cities. It will give mayors a public opportunity to sound their commitment.

The NCSRTS doesn't have its own funding stream like it used to. The center received funding from Safety Lou, which provided over \$1 billion from 2006 and ended in 2012.

Washington State has high impressive walking and biking rates compared to other states.

This was a record breaking year for National Bike Month. There were 2,676 registered events in 48 states, which was one more state than last year (Wyoming joined).

**Committee Calendar and Services Discussion** - See STSC Annual Calendar document  
In order to keep a better track of annual events and other happenings that surround the STSC, the committee has started to create an annual calendar. The calendar will inform in the committee on when certain events are happening and allot a time on the agenda for the appropriate month. Please see the attached STSC Annual Calendar as it is updated thus far. This document is a work in progress.

**ACTION:** Cathy, Jen, Brian or Ashley, An, and Richard to set up meeting time to chat about "Standard services of the STSC" as requested by school communities.

### **Bike to School Month updates**

Shannon Koller gave us an update about Bike to School Month, which was May 4, 2016. The numbers are up! For Seattle schools alone the numbers increase 11% from last year (there were 2,214 bikers in 2015 and 2,453 in 2016). New public schools that participated included Coe Elementary School, Roxhill Elementary School, Sacagawea Elementary School, and Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. New private schools that participated include St Joseph's School, St John Catholic School, Our Lady of the Lake Parish School, Giddens School, and Bush School.

Four hundred kids alone participated at West Mercer Elementary School. Mercer Island schools are redrawing school boundary lines so kids don't have to to cross Island Crest Way.

Regionally, there was a 31% increase (2,795 bikers in 2015 and 3,664 in 2016). The numbers for middle schools and high schools have remained steady.

### **SPS Bike/Ped program expansion**

As part of the SRTS Action Plan, Cascade Bicycle Club has been expanding the in-school bicycle program. The program currently serves half of the schools, and with the expansion they will be able to serve all schools. In every elementary school, the program will work with PE coordinators and will be a required program for students. New features of the program will include pedestrian-safe crossing activities which will be integrated with bike and pedestrian safety skills. The lessons are scaffolded based on grade or skill level. The curriculum has been piloted and received feedback and will now go through the appropriate committees through the School District. Cascade will equitably allocate resources for the program, providing additional assistance and priority scheduling for school communities with high needs. Cascade will meet with Brian Dougherty to see about adaptive bicycles and see if it's possible to pilot the adaptive bikes in 2-3 schools this year that have dedicated special education programs.

### **Wing Luke El intersection of 39<sup>th</sup> Ave S. & S Kenyon St - request for crossing guard**

The Vice-principal at Wing Luke Elementary is concerned about this particular intersection because they have gotten two separate calls from parents about seeing kids nearly get hit by traffic. Note that because there is a steep switchback on 39th Ave S, there are technically 2 intersections of 39th with Kenyon. The upper intersection, closer to the school, is appropriately staffed by student patrol. The lower intersection, at the base of the outdoor stairway, is the intersection of concern to the school right now. Traffic travels fast on 39th at this location because it is the main route to Martin Luther King Jr Way S. The grass by the intersection is currently tall and out of control, which makes it hard for drivers to spot kids. There is no crossing help at this location, which the school reports is a significant walk route for students from the New Holly housing complex.

The committee has some suggestions and following action items.

**SUGGESTION:** The school could pursue a grant for an intersection painting similar to the "Wallybug" ladybug painting in Wallingford on Burke Ave N & N 49th St.

**ACTION:** Brian Dougherty/SDOT to do a traffic study at 39<sup>th</sup> Ave S & S Kenyon St to find location for marked crosswalk and speed hump. Ideally the traffic study should be conducted before end of school (June) or September when kids are back in school.

**ACTION:** Brian Dougherty to send committee standard responses to schools requesting services.

**ACTION:** Richard Staudt to send Jen Cole Seattle City Light contact about tall grass near 39<sup>th</sup> Ave S & S Kenyon St intersection.

### **Safety Camera April Stats – Month-to-month comparisons by Greenways**

There were 12,270 violators in March and 8,845 in April. April might have had low numbers because there was a week of spring break. The numbers for June might also be low because school gets out this month. Mercer Middle School and Montlake Elementary school are still speed zones.

**ACTION:** Committee to discuss speed camera stats and how results appear to have not gone down over time in June meeting.

### **Parking enforcement near schools**

Jason Kasube from SPD spoke to the committee about police presence near schools. Similar to the Safety Camera stats, Kasube says the rates for parking enforcement near schools go down when there is an officer on location. It takes time to write a citation, but just telling parents to keep moving can help relieve traffic issues. It is difficult to have officers at all schools because it depends on the number of officers and the number of schools. There should be better communication between STSC committee members, SPD, and schools about enforcement need. Some food for thought - the committee would like to see traffic officers assigned to schools. This type of community policing would help boost ownership and develop relationships between officers and school.

**ACTION:** Cathy Tuttle will draft a letter to SPD regarding community policing and parking enforcement near schools. The letter will be addressed to the Assistant Chief Tarrant and be specific - asking for specific officers assigned to specific prioritized schools, and it will also ask for monthly reports on warnings given and hours monitored. The committee will review during the June meeting.

### **Crossing Guard sub-committee update / Walk Zone sub-committee invitation**

We have a new crossing guard at Aurora Ave N and N 80th St. We have reviewed and ranked 105 crossing guard locations and those 105 have potential to be funded by the school district. Several schools will lose or gain crossing guards (provided they will be staffed). Communication to find more staffing has been to only principals so far, but this could be expanded to parents too for more outreach.

The School Assignment Boundaries will change and an invitation to join a subcommittee to talk about this topic was made. Richard Staudt offered to join the subcommittee.

### **Public Comment**

### **Future Topics and Announcements**

- Committee to discuss wrap-up report for Basics of Bicycling Program for 2015/16 school year
- Committee to review draft letter from Cathy Tuttle about increased police presence at schools

- Committee to discuss speed camera stats and how results have not gone down over time
- Alyssa Smith and Shannon Koller to talk about the naming of an SDOT mini grant process after Clint Loper.

10:30am Adjourn

School Traffic Safety Committee Annual Calendar

DRAFT 5/2016

Month	Event	Agenda item
Jan		
Feb	● Neighborhood Park & Street Fund Applications Due (Under 90k)	● SDOT Minigrant info share (SDOT)
March		● Bike to School Month preview (CBC)
April	● SDOT Minigrant applications due	● Hands-up tally communications (SPS)
May	● Bike to School Month ● School Bus Paddle Violator Count Day	● Parking Day Preview

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hands-up tally conducted</li> <li>● School Bus Paddle Violator Count Day Report released</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bike to School Month Wrap Up</li> <li>● Review School Bus Paddle Violator Count Day Report</li> <li>● Roll up figures for bike/ped education program (June/July)</li> </ul>
July		
Aug		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Walk to School month preview (FF, SNG, SDOT)</li> </ul>
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parking Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Results from Hands-up tally, assign certificates (All)</li> </ul>
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Walk to School Month</li> <li>● SDOT Minigrant apps due</li> <li>● Golden Shoe and Spoke awards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SDOT annual report on progress on SRTS 5 Year Action Plan (Oct/Nov)</li> </ul>
Nov		
Dec		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Neighborhood Park &amp; Street Fund Applications - info announcement (SDOT)</li> </ul>