

# Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee February 26 2016 Minutes

## Attendees

### Committee Members:

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

**Guest Presenters:** None

## Public Attendees:

Liz Dunn, Assistant Principal, Genesee Hill EI  
Kevin Broveleit, Parent Participant, Genesee Hill EI Safety Committee  
Steve Nicholas, Manager of Genesee Hill EI construction project  
David Flores, Sanislo EI parent  
Pat Kraft, Magnolia Elementary parent

## Introductions and new members

We welcome three new members to the committee: Shanti Breznau, An Huyn and Alyssa Smith.

## Action items from last month

- SDOT is still looking at possible engineering improvements for the crossing of Aurora at 90<sup>th</sup>.
- Rich O'Neill has spoken with parking enforcement officers regarding sidewalk infringement on Aurora. The appropriate parking enforcement officer will ticket the area as appropriate.

**ACTION:** Ashley to speak with Officer Jason Kasube with invitation to attend next month's meeting.

- SDOT to send "ped toolbox" info to interested parent from last meeting.
- Teresa Frizzel of Feet First send info to the Dearborn Park parent with questions about City Light property. Dearborn Park has a new parent involvement program.

**ACTION:** Jen Cole to get further files from Feet First and give to Richard Staudt.

**ACTION:** Ashley to reach out to Seattle City Light contact to help make connections with school.

- Ashley sent out a link to information about the “On-Boarding” process for City committee members.

**ACTION:** Ashley to re-send. Any members who are able to attend need to RSVP to Ashley with dates.

**January Minutes:** Approved

### **Review Genesee Hill traffic safety**

Liz Dunn, Principal at the new Genesee Hill Elementary School in West Seattle, joins the committee to discuss traffic safety plans for the campus when it opens in the fall. The campus is in a dense residential neighborhood and will have very little busing. The city block is on a steep incline. Drawings of plans were shared with the group. There are concerns about conflicts between parent drop-off and pick-up, placement of bike racks, which compete with useable playground space, and pedestrian safety at particular intersections. Project Manager Steve Nicholas tells us that the project will be completed in 70 days. Shanti shared tips for starting walking school buses, learned from direct experience at Fairmount Park.

SDOT confirmed that the intersection of 51<sup>st</sup> and Genesee will have painted crosswalks, and that 20 MPH speed signs will be posted in this school zone. Flashing beacons could be placed on Genesee if the project fund could pay for it. Brian shared a ballpark figure for that expense at \$25k.

Following robust discussion, these action steps were identified:

**ACTION:** SDOT to do speed study to see if Genesee qualifies for speed humps near the school. Brian will also look up previous speed study and collision history near 48<sup>th</sup> and Dakota.

**ACTION:** Brian will set up a site visit for the location.

**ACTION:** Ashley and the Crossing Guard Sub-Committee will put intersection of 51<sup>st</sup> and Genesee into current spread-sheet to see how it ranks for adult guard placement. Report back next month.

**ACTION:** Brian to send MOU for speed flashing beacons to project staff.

### **Procedural Request**

Cathy Tuttle requests that for future visits by school personnel, this committee should come prepared with the following:

- 85% speed info when available
- ADT

- Collision history
- Heat Maps from SPS
- Walk Zone maps
- Mode split data
- Any existing traffic study information
- # Students
- Crossing Guard information

### **Madison Middle School safety concerns**

Madison Middle has requested a 4-way stop at 45<sup>th</sup> and Spokane. SDOT has done a traffic study and has concluded that a 4-way stop is not warranted at the location. Brian explains that overuse of stop signs discourages obedience, which is an underpinning to SDOT's citywide engineering policies. No collisions have been reported at this location. Brian explains that there may be other more appropriate solutions to the problem there which might be funded through local grant sources.

- ACTION:** Brian to add 45<sup>th</sup> and Spokane to agenda for site visit to W. Seattle.
- ACTION:** Brian to send summary of grant options to Richard so that Richard can pass on to the families that made the request.

### **Stevens Elementary traffic circulation concerns**

Beth Peterson, neighbor of Stevens El, is concerned about traffic around this school, particularly at 18<sup>th</sup> Ave East, where she sees children being dropped off in the middle of the street. After much discussion, the committee concluded that this neighbor should be referred to the school's safety committee. Communication should be direct between the Principal and the neighbors, as this is a common local dynamic. The Principal should share the circulation plan with the neighbor and invite her to participate in the school safety committee.

- ACTION:** Brian to follow up with Principal to remind her of the circulation plan and to encourage her to reach out to the neighbor.

### **WSDOT Grants**

The Call for WSDOT proposals is open now. SDOT plans to apply for several grants from WSDOT. Ashley and Brian ask for ideas from this committee about what to include for education and encouragement. Shanti points out that starting a Walking School Bus or Bike Train program requires unusual skills and commitment from volunteers. Ashley explains that the grants may fund a temporary staff person to initiate a program, but it needs to be limited term. Ideas included High School video projects, "traffic safety in a box," and engineering assessment teaching for older students. Alyssa suggests partnerships with higher education, like Gatzert has with Seattle U. This would speak to sustainability.

- ACTION:** All Committee members please send your ideas to Ashley.

### **Safety Camera Stats for January**

Ashley distributed a page of safety camera stats for the month of January.

### **Stop Paddle Cameras**

Yvonne reports that the discussion are continuing between SPS and the County regarding Stop Paddle Violation cameras. Richard gives background for new members.

### **Crossing Guard updates**

Yvonne reports that we have lost guards at Washington Middle School, Gatzert El., Montlake, Gatewood, Kimball, Concord and Beacon. These are all out for medical reasons. She continues to recruit via a Jobs Fair, and is working with SPS Human Resources to get the word out. The notice is now posted to the website.

**ACTION:** Yvonne to send flyer link to the committee. Done before distribution of notes. Here is the link:

[http://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_543/File/District/Departments/Transportation/Crossing%20Guard%20Flyer.pdf](http://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/Transportation/Crossing%20Guard%20Flyer.pdf)

### **Request for Bailey Gatzert heat maps**

Cathy Tuttle requests heat maps of Gatzert to help Seattle University students who are working on a traffic study of the area. Cathy would like someone to build a library of heat maps and offers GIS labor assistance if that would be a pragmatic help. Much discussion ensues about federal regulations of student location data (FERPA) that is required to create the maps. Discussion includes consideration of SPS capacity.

**ACTION:** Richard to request Bailey Gatzert heat map to assist SU project.

### **Legislation about 20/25 MPH speed zones**

Cathy distributes information about a new legislative push to reduce speed limits. **(See attachment #1)**

### **Public Comment**

Magnolia resident Pat Kraft presented to the committee about his concerns regarding the intersection of 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West and West Raye Street in Magnolia. He explains that the intersection has a confluence of factors that make it especially concerning. Large delivery trucks use the space for Albertson's Groceries, many children walk here both to go to school and to go to the public pool, school buses use the space, and parents drop off their students here. He requests that this committee send a letter of support for a 4-way stop at this intersection.

**ACTION:** Brian to send past study information to committee members. Committee will revisit this issue next month and respond to Mr. Kraft shortly afterwards.

### **Additional topic: Chair position for this committee**

Ashley explains that her chairmanship position is over this month. She asks committee members to consider stepping up to chair the committee.

**ACTION:** All members consider this and we will put the issue on the agenda for next month.

**Future Topics and Announcements**

1. Request for letter of support regarding 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave West and West Raye
2. Committee Chair Position
3. New School Start Times and how they impact student travel (Brian)

**10:35am Adjourn**