

## Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board 2014 Annual Report

### Overview

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB) has been chartered with four tasks:

- Advise the Mayor, City Council and all departments and offices of the City on matters related to pedestrians, including the impact that actions by the City may have upon the pedestrian environment;
- Contribute to all aspects of the City's planning and project development processes insofar as they may relate to pedestrian safety and access;
- Promote improved pedestrian safety and access by evaluating and recommending changes in City design guidelines and policies;
- Prepare an annual report on the status of its work program and achievement of its goals to the Mayor and City Council.

Recognizing that Seattle has adopted the goal of being “the most walkable city in the nation”, the Pedestrian Advisory Board tracks implementation of the City’s primary vehicle for achieving that status, the [Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan](#), adopted by the Mayor and City Council in 2009. The Pedestrian Master Plan is scheduled for an update in 2015.

**The 2014 Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board** consisted of members with diverse backgrounds, expertise and interests, including:

- Public health and safety and how they intersect with social equity and justice, the relation of infrastructure and social behavior;
- Law and human rights;
- Journalism, communications, fundraising, and outreach;
- Human services advocacy, including seniors and people with disabilities;
- Urban geography, transportation planning, and street and infrastructure design;
- Community and neighborhood outreach;
- Engagement with racially and ethnically diverse community members, as well as the millennial generation.

All members have overarching interest in pedestrian safety, accessibility, mobility – and Complete Streets that work for everyone.

**The Annual Report** communicates the work of the Board to the Mayor, City Council and the public. It also provides transparency, and a record and guide to the work plan for the upcoming year and for future Board members.

### **Work, Activities and Actions of the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board in 2014**

*Projects and policy issues presented to the SPAB for input, comment and review during regular, monthly meetings*

#### **January 2014**

- Trees and Sidewalk Conflicts (Jennifer Wieland, SDOT; Amalia Matan, consultant, SvR Design)

- Capital Projects (SDOT)
  - Greenwood Ave Transit Corridor Improvements (Ken Lee, project manager; Paul Elliott, public information officer)
  - 23rd Ave Corridor Improvements (Kit Loo, project manager)
- 520 Update (Calvin Chow & Lyle Bicknell, SDOT; Kristin Dean, WSDOT; Daniel Dobuga; Ryan McNill)

#### **February 2014**

- Northgate pedestrian Bridge Project (Art Brochet, SDOT)
- Holiday Safety Campaign Results (Allison Schwartz, SDOT)
- Safe Routes to School (Brian Dougherty, SDOT)
- Arboretum Multi-Use Trail (Andy Sheffer, Parks Department)

#### **March 2014**

- East Howe Street Park—Pedestrian Pathway and Stairs (Brian Ramey, steering committee)
- Fairview Ave. N. Bridge Replacement (Maribel Cruz & Jamie O'Day, SDOT)
- Greenways [east side of 23rd from Judkins to Columbia. Then, cross 23rd @ Columbia and continue on the west side of 23<sup>rd</sup>] (Terry Plumb, SDOT)
- 3rd Ave. Corridor Improvements (Ken Lee, SDOT)

#### **April 2014**

- Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan update (Kristian Kofed, Department of Planning & Development; Kevin O'Neill, Department of Transportation SDOT)
- Pedestrian Retail Areas (Aly Pennucci, DPD)
- Mercer Street West project (Eric Tweit, SDOT)

#### **May 2014**

- Union Street Project (Connie Zimmerman, SDOT)
- Pedestrian Funding Sources (Kristen Simpson, SDOT)
- Fautleroy Way SW Green Boulevard (Sue Byers, SDOT; Maribel Cruz, design consultants)

#### **June 2014**

- Pedestrian signals and signalized crossings (Dongho Chang, SDOT)
- ROWIM—Right of Way Improvement Manual (Susan McLaughlin, SDOT)

#### **July 2014**

- Access Seattle Initiative and Construction Hub Program (Melody Berry & Brian de Place, SDOT)
- Integrated Multimodal Plan for Mt. Baker Station (Michael James, SDOT)

#### **August 2014**

- SPAB annual field trip: Met with new SDOT director Scott Kubly in Columbia City, walked parts of Rainier Ave and routes to light rail stations, then rode Link to Mt. Baker Station for walk and talk with Michael James of SDOT.

#### **September 2014**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Protected Bike Lane (Sam Woods, SDOT, Multimodal Projects)
- SR 520 West Approach Bridge North Project (Candida Lorenzana, SDOT; Lyle Bicknell, DPD)
- BTG Finances (Chris Ruffini, SDOT)

#### **October 2014**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Transit Corridor (Maria Koengeter, SDOT; Paul Roybal, King County Metro)
- Overview of CPRS Capital Projects Presenter (Art Brochet, SDOT)

#### **November 2014**

- Mount Baker Commons and Olmsted Parkway (Talis Abolins, Mount Baker resident)
- Pedestrian Master Plan work plan update (Kristen Simpson, SDOT)
- Pedestrian Master Plan 5-year update process (Michelle Marx, SDOT)

#### **December 2014**

- Central Business District Curbspace Study (Meghan Shepard, Becky Edmonds, Michael James, SDOT)
- Yesler Bridge Rehabilitation (Amanda Tse, SDOT, Rob Gorman, HDR)

#### ***Official SPAB representation on other bodies, outside of regular, monthly meetings***

During 2014, members represented the Pedestrian Advisory Board in a range of outside interactions, events and planning processes to offer a perspective on providing for the safety, comfort and well being of Seattle residents walking on our streets:

- *Bridging the Gap Levy Oversight Committee*. Represented the Pedestrian Advisory Board in overseeing the utilization of this funding source, which includes Pedestrian Master Plan implementation and other pedestrian-related improvements.
- *Telecommunications Cabinet Stakeholder Group*. Purpose: To aid in drafting legislation for telecommunication cabinets in the public right-of-way and give broadband internet providers a clear path for implementation, while protecting the interests of those using and adjacent to the public right-of-way.
- *SDOT Director Search Citizen Advisory Committee*. Represented the Board and pedestrian interests in developing criteria for a nationwide search for a new director.
- *Transportation Choices Coalition*. Member and participated in advocacy efforts, for example annual advocacy day in Olympia.
- *Seattle Neighborhood Greenways*. Active in the overall organization and local branches, for example Rainier Valley Greenways.
- *Beacon Bikes*. Attended meetings and activities organized by this group.
- *Westlake Design Advisory Committee*. Served on the advisory committee.
- *Seattle freight master plan*. Served on advisory committee.
- *Transportation for America*. The communications director for this national organization, which advocates for improved pedestrian environment among other options, serves on the board; in addition, members attended T4America events on transportation and health and improving freight access.

#### ***SPAB outreach to other city boards or partners***

- Ongoing participation in Belltown Housing and Land Use Subcommittee (BHLUS) of the Belltown Community Council.

- Ongoing participation in Friends of Bell Street Park; participation on the Friends of Bell Street Park Art and Activation Steering Committee.
- Attended Feet First Walkable Washington awards and symposium on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Attended the Seattle Neighborhood Summit on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended Westlake Cycletrack and Pronto Cycle Share open houses.
- Provided feedback to Parks/DON and consultants on the plans/design for a new park at Westlake and Lenora.
- Served as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Ambassador with SDOT and Cascade Bicycle Club for the opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue protected bicycle lane.
- Collaborated with Seattle Greenways and other advocates on statements to the Budget Committee of the City Council regarding the 2015-2016 budget.
- Tracked and attended meetings of Seattle City Council committees for agenda items of potential interest to the Board.
- Collaborated with SDOT's Walk Safe Program by providing contact information and warm introduction to our affiliated senior centers and others located in Seattle.
- Participated in Seattle Neighborhood Greenways retreat for selecting priorities to focus on in 2014.
- Collaborated with Feet First, Group Health and Children's Hospital on a intergenerational safe routes to schools idea that was promoted at Senior Services Community Connections Conference June, 2014
- Attended event titled Elevating Health in Regional Transportation Planning Nov, 2014.
- Collaborated with Greenways, Cascade and others to offer input on the Right-of-way improvement manual.

#### ***Official SPAB advisory statements and other communications***

- Letter to SDOT and DON in support of East Howe ROW project (March 14, 2014)
- Support for TIGER Grant funding for University of Washington Burke-Gilman Trail (April 18, 2014)
- Support for TIGER Grant funding for Northgate Pedestrian Bridge (April 24, 2014)
- Letter to the Mayor and the City Council in support of the Council prioritization of transportation funding for the 2015-2016 Budget (September 15, 2014)
- Statement and letter to the City Council Transportation Committee in support of the conceptual design work on the SR520 non-motorized connections (September 23, 2014)
- Letter of support for the Mt. Baker Commons and Olmsted Parkway (December 21, 2014)

#### **Conclusion and a look ahead**

The SPAB had a busy and productive 2014 that culminated in the formation of a 2015 work plan that is even more ambitious. The update of the Pedestrian Master Plan (PMP) will occupy a substantial share of the board's focus and activity in 2015. At the same time, the board is actively interacting with SDOT and members of the community on issues of pedestrian access and safety amid the unprecedented flurry of construction in core Seattle neighborhoods.

In addition, the board has identified a set of capital projects of particular importance and interest, and has requested that SDOT provide regular updates on those projects and an opportunity for board comment at various stages of design and implementation.

Members of the SPAB are interacting with a range of stakeholder groups around the implications for pedestrians of the City's "Vision Zero" goal to eliminate traffic deaths through design, enforcement and user education.

Throughout 2014, the board regularly raised questions with SDOT about the lingering obstacles to fulfilling the City's Complete Streets ordinance and Pedestrian Master Plan. While department officials appear committed to these goals, the City's capital budgeting practices and insufficient level of investment continue to hamper progress. In recognition of these issues, board members hope to participate actively in discussions over the successor to the expiring Bridging the Gap levy and the budget decisions related to the implementation of the PMP, as well as the integration of the PMP into the Move Seattle multimodal plan.

SPAB members consider it an honor to serve the people of Seattle and our Mayor and City Council, and look forward to the opportunity to continue to do so in the coming year. In that spirit, we respectfully submit this annual report on the activities of the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board.

David Goldberg, Chair

Jacob Struiksma, Vice Chair

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