



*Stewards of the
Pedestrian Master Plan*

Joanne Donohue, Chair
Gordon Padelford, Vice Chair
Cameron Zapata, Secretary
(Get Engaged)

David Amiton
Angela Davis
David Goldberg
Lydia Heard
April Kelley
Jeffrey Linn
Catherine Morrison
Paul Muldoon

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board 2015 Annual Report

Overview and Responsibilities

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB) is 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.

In addition, the Pedestrian Advisory Board also tracks implementation of the Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan, adopted by the Mayor and City Council in 2009.

2015 Highlights

During 2015, the SPAB focused on the update to the Pedestrian Master Plan, provided input on a range of projects across city agencies, and participated in community planning efforts. The board heard and provided feedback on 18 separate projects during regular meetings. Members attended 42 pedestrian and transportation related meetings, conferences, and public hearings. The board composed four letters of support for various City agency projects during the year. Finally, the board initiated a broad public comment period regarding the Master Plan, which drew over 4,600 responses.

Projects and Policy Issues Presented to the SPAB for Input, Comment and Review During Regular Monthly Meetings

- Trees and Sidewalks Operations Update (January, SDOT)
- AAC (Arterial Asphalt and Concrete) Projects: Renton Ave S (January, SDOT); Roosevelt Way NE (February, June, SDOT)
- 5th Ave Construction Hub (January, Sellen Construction)
- Pedestrian Master Plan Updates: Policy Assessment, Framework, Public Outreach, Best Practices, Public Engagement, Toolbox (February, April, May, June, September, October, November, December, SDOT)
- Multimodal Corridors Analysis (February, SDOT)
- Rainier Safety Corridor, 35th Ave SW Safety Corridor, Vision Zero (March, SDOT)
- Westlake Cycle Track (March, SDOT)
- Q&A with Scott Kubly, SDOT Director
- SDOT ADA Coordinator introduction (April)
- Move Seattle Levy (April, May)

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*-City Council Resolution
28791*

SMT, 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3800
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- Broadway Streetcar Extension (May)
- Madison BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) (May)
- Seattle 2035 Update and Transportation Element (May, September – SDOT)
- Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Update (June, SDOT)
- Transit Advisory Board (July, SDOT)
- Waterfront Seattle Draft EIS (July, SDOT)
- Field Trip for Review of Sidewalk Construction Alternatives (August, SPAB)
- Q&A with Mayor Murray (September)
- Fairview Ave N Bridge Replacement (September, SDOT)
- Freight Master Plan (October, SDOT)
- Ship Canal Water Quality Project (October, SPU)
- ROWIM (Right of Way Improvement Manual) Update (November, SDOT)
- Parks and Recreation Greenways Initiative (December, Seattle Parks and Recreation)

Participation in Pedestrian Related Meetings/Events Outside of Board Meetings

- Three board members met with Councilmember Tom Rasmussen to discuss pedestrian concerns in January
- Two members attended four meetings of the City Council Transportation Committee
- Four members participated in Vision Zero meetings in January, February and August
- One member participated in ROWIM workshop in February
- One member attended a Transportation Seminar in March
- One member attended Bridging the Gap meetings in January, February, April, July and October
- Two members participated in Move Seattle planning meetings in January, February and April
- Two Members attended Move Seattle public hearings in March and June
- Two Members attended the Bike Board meeting in March
- One Member participated in PSRC/SDOT Complete Streets webinar in March
- One Member attended a presentation in West Seattle on the 35th Street 35th St Road Corridor Project in March
- One member attended SDOT transportation presentation series: Future of Transportation in Cities, Mobility as a Force for Good, and Build a Better Block in March, May and June
- One member participated in the American Planning Association community planning workshop in Belltown in April, including transportation issues and Sound Transit ST3 planning
- One member attended the Feet First Walkable WA annual conference in April.
- One member attended the Draft EIS public hearing and open house for Seattle 2035 in May

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- Two Members attended the Sound Transit open house in June
- One member attended the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee staffed by PSRC in June
- One member attended the Duwamish Meeting in June
- One member attended East Marginal Way Multi Modal Corridor Study meeting in June
- Six members participated in the PMP prioritization workshop in July
- One Member participated in several BHLUS (Belltown Housing and Land Use) and other Belltown presentations, including design reviews for 8th and Bell and 7th and Bell, associated with Bell Street Park; 5th and Virginia; Denny Triangle Public Realm study; the Lake to Bay trail; and public realm, preservation and planning issues for 2nd Ave in Belltown.
- One member took a field trip to Portland to Learn about their internationally known Age Friendly Initiative (8 domains, two of which pertain to pedestrian issues) in August
- One Member attended the West Seattle Transportation Coalition in August
- One member met with CM Sally Bagshaw and Belltown groups to discuss planning issues in Belltown in September
- One member attended the Equitable Transit Oriented Development Advisory Board in September
- One member attended a meeting with PSRC to Discuss Metrics for Age Friendly Initiative in October
- Three members attended SDOT Open House on Ped Master Plan Update October
- One member participated in phone meeting with AARP National to discuss Age Friendly implementation in November.
- One member attended the Comprehensive Plan Update Workshop in November
- One member attended the 2035 Plan
- One member served on Pronto's board of directors through August 2015.
- One member participated in the City's Ballard Bridge Design Workshop and separate walking audit on behalf of SPAB.
- One member attended the Move Ballard open house in November 2015
- One member attended the Roosevelt Transit Corridor open house in December 2015
- One member participated in a Wallingford bike/ped 45th Street/I-5 Crossing site visit with Wallingford community members & Rob Johnson
- One member participated in a Downtown bicycle plan ride with Commute Seattle and Councilmember Sally Bagshaw
- One member worked with Wallingford neighborhood group to discuss traffic calming and potential pavement-to-parks project at 47th Ave E. and E 2nd St. intersection and as a result, the group began sketching out concepts for safety/public space improvements.
- One member coordinated a parents' group seeking improvements to E

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Latona/54th Ave E intersection and crosswalk at the McDonald International School. Wrote grant proposal to the Neighborhood Park and Street Fund for infrastructure costs (will be submitted in January 2016). Successfully petitioned Brian Dougherty at SDOT for short term improvements at intersection (bike rack).

Advisory remarks and comment letters

- Chairman's report to the Transportation Committee of the Seattle City Council (March 24)
- Letter of support for Vision Zero, and chair attendance at Mayor's roll-out (February 12)
- Letter of support, UW TIGER grant proposal (May 19)
- Letter of support, City of Seattle TIGER grant proposal (May 24)
- Letter of support, Move Seattle transportation plan (June 26)
- Letter to the Editor, *The Seattle Times*, regarding a story, "Surviving Seattle's Sidewalks" (submitted Aug 6, unpublished)
- Comments on community outreach survey for the Pedestrian Master Plan update (October 14)

Pedestrian Master Plan Update Process: SPAB has been the primary conduit of public review for the Pedestrian Master Plan technical update. While we have been doing our best to represent the needs of all Seattleites we strongly requested that SDOT conduct additional outreach to underserved communities, conduct an online survey, and hold two in person meetings in the Lake City and Rainier Valley communities. We are very grateful that SDOT staff agreed to and implemented these outreach suggestions. We feel that the update will be much stronger with this increased level of public engagement.

SPAB has offered numerous comments big and small about the update, and we feel that SDOT is adequately responding to our ongoing suggestions and concerns.

Seattle Comprehensive Plan update: SPAB members have been participating in discussions with DPD and SDOT staff about the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan update. We recommended that city staff:

1. Focus on safety as the overarching priority, with special consideration paid to the needs of people walking across intersections.
2. Implement a bold mode share based level of service to replace the existing level of service metric that ignores people who walk for transportation.
3. Strengthen Seattle's Complete Streets commitment by ensuring every street has a safe place for people to walk.

2016 Proposed Work Plan Overarching Goals & Focus Areas

- **Earlier review of key projects.** Work with SDOT, and mayor and council if

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need be, to ensure that SPAB has an opportunity to review key projects prior to 30 percent design. The pattern has been to bring projects to the board as informational items with little opportunity to provide meaningful input

- **Equity and inclusion.** SPAB will work to be more of a voice, with more impact, to ensure that the city is living up to its equity goals where pedestrian safety and access are concerned. There is interest in developing a screening document to aid board review and ensure that the new project prioritization scheme in the PMP is carried out.
- **Sidewalk alternatives.** SPAB hopes to take an active role in monitoring and evaluating the use of alternative approaches to providing lower cost, safe walkways in neighborhoods without sidewalks, primarily in the southern and northern ends of the city. The board has toured existing models and worked with SDOT to solicit input from the public. In 2016 we will assess that input as we begin to monitor design, capital planning and implementation.
- **Vision Zero.** The board will continue to oversee the Vision Zero campaign and seek opportunities to promote safe, accessible pedestrian opportunities within its execution.

Projects and Programs

- Pedestrian Master Plan update (Q1-2)
 - Review community input and provide any resulting comment to SDOT;
 - Work with SDOT to finalize prioritization scheme;
 - Provide input and guidance on performance targets;
 - Provide guidance and comment on on the PMP implementation plan;
 - Offer final comments to mayor and council prior to adoption.
- Right-of-way Improvement Manual (Q1)
 - Ensure that the final ROWIM reflects the guidance of the modal plans and comp plan (especially street use allocation)
- Monitor implementation of Director's Rule for construction project safety and access for pedestrians.
- Development:
 - Monitor how development projects are paying for implementing pedestrian infrastructure;
 - Monitor how HALA implementation, parking minimums, transit hubs and other development issues impact pedestrians. Offer comment and recommendations to mayor and council.
 - Establish relationship with new Office of Planning and Community Development
- BRT corridors:
 - Offer proactive input on designing and providing access to the new bus rapid transit corridors envisioned under the Move Seattle levy and plan.

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- ADA compliance and access: Establish a relationship with the Commission on Disabilities, disability rights groups

Summary and Conclusion

The year 2015 has been something of a watershed for the future of the pedestrian environment in Seattle. The city's adoption of the Vision Zero perspective has the potential to produce a profound shift in policy, design, engineering and law enforcement. After a half-century of emphasizing automotive speed -- and the safety of motorists traveling at high speed -- at the expense of people on foot, city departments are under a directive to create safe conditions for everyone who lives in or visits Seattle. The change in mindset is as welcome as it is long in coming.

Seattle's continued rapid growth and densification are presenting near-term challenges but could reap significant long-term benefits for people traveling by foot. This year the SPAB weighed in at several points to highlight the city's need to manage ever-present construction in a way that impinges less on pedestrian comfort and safety. The recent Director's Rule makes great strides forward in people-friendly policy; we are hopeful that implementation will match the ambition, and the board will continue monitoring and commenting on the situation in 2016.

Given rapid growth and change, the scheduled update to the Pedestrian Master Plan came at a critical time and presented a chance to reinvigorate and refocus the city's commitment to walking infrastructure. With proper implementation, the new prioritization approach and performance targets will result in quicker, smarter deployment of resources to help residents in higher-density areas reach transit and other destinations. At the same time, SPAB's work with SDOT, during the PMP update, to identify acceptable alternatives to costly curb-and-gutter sidewalks should help fill gaps in lower-density neighborhoods that lack adequate walkways. As the PMP update moves toward an implementation plan, we are particularly eager to see action on the city's commitment to bring urgent attention toward eliminating the disparities in safety and conditions that exist among neighborhoods, particularly those whose residents are people of color and who may be less well-off.

Of course, none of this can be done without resources. SPAB members were pleased to contribute to the development of the Move Seattle plan and the levy that emerged from it. We look forward not only to better maintained walkways, but also implementation of improved connections to transit, expansion of neighborhood greenways and improved walking conditions for sidewalk-deprived neighborhoods in the north and south. The levy promises significant expansion of options other than driving -- almost all of which begin and end with walking trips.

If 2015 has been about laying the groundwork to manage change, 2016 will be a year to launch implementation. SPAB members look forward to working shoulder-to-shoulder with SDOT and the new Office of Community Planning and

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Development to ensure that the interests of all Seattle residents are represented as we go forward.

David Goldberg, 2015 Chair
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