



School Traffic Safety Committee

April 22, 2024

To: Mayor Harrell
City Council

We are writing to express support for a physical restructuring of Aurora Avenue North that will make it safe for students and families to walk and roll to school. The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) recently presented us with their initial design options and mockups for the future redesign of Aurora Ave N. We urge you to help and support SDOT in taking this opportunity to make Aurora part of our vibrant city rather than a barrier and danger within it.

Students at B.F. Day and Daniel Bagley Elementary Schools must cross Aurora, as must middle schoolers at Hamilton and high school students at Lincoln. Over the last five years, 22 people trying to go about their days have been killed in traffic collisions on Aurora. We can and need to make these crossings a non-event in a kindergartener's day, as opposed to a parent's nightmare that requires the whole family to either risk their lives or restructure their habits and schedules to traverse this short distance.

While there are multiple opportunities for physical improvements along Aurora that will knit our communities together, we would particularly like to highlight the need for an at-grade crossing with a traffic light at North 41st Street, a major crossing point for B.F. Day Elementary students as well as those of all ages utilizing the B.F. Day playground. The present configuration is not ADA accessible and families can't get strollers or wheelchairs onto the bridge, which itself is not seismically sound. We've been asked by the B.F. Day principal for solutions and, in this case, physical redesign is needed. A safe, pleasant, at-grade crossing will reunite a neighborhood with the happy add-on of making the commercial spaces along Aurora more accessible for all.

The Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee was created in 1975 to connect the mosaic of entities involved in creating and providing safe routes to school. The Committee includes representatives of public agencies and volunteer community members. This letter is on behalf of the volunteer members. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,
Margaret McCauley
Marilyn Firman
Mary Ellen Russell
Ryan Baum
Kelsey Rote
Noa Guter