



School Traffic Safety Committee

October 27, 2023

To: Greg Spotts, SDOT Director
700 5th Ave
Suite 3800
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Comments on the Draft Seattle Transportation Plan from the School Traffic Safety Committee

The School Traffic Safety Committee applauds the emphasis on safety in the draft Seattle Transportation Plan. Our goal is that all of the elementary school walk zones in Seattle will take up the full 1-mile radius around the school. This will be possible when all kids living within a mile of their school will have safe and pleasant walk routes to school. Many of the key moves listed in the plan would help make that goal a reality if they were fully implemented.

We have the following comments about the draft Seattle Transportation Plan:

1. The plan includes many worthy goals but little information about how these goals and their impact will be evaluated. It is unclear how competing priorities will be weighed against each other, and who will make those decisions.
2. The plan does not address how to connect areas currently disconnected by highways and arterials. This is a critical oversight for students because school assignment boundaries often cross highways and arterials. Older students who ride Metro to school often must take two or three buses to reach school due to poor connectivity around I-5, Aurora, and other arterials.
3. The plan does not address how responsibility will be shared between agencies (Metro, WSDOT) to ensure holistic, inter-agency responses regarding implementation, prioritization, and accountability.
4. We appreciate SDOT sharing the Draft Project List, which includes many projects that impact connectivity and student safety in our priority schools. We particularly support implementing the following projects:

Region	Project ID	Priority Schools Impacted
Southeast	30, 15, 60, 58, 43	Rainier Beach, John Muir, Aki Kurose, MLK Jr., Wing Luke, Dunlap, South Shore, Emerson, Rising Star
Central	4, 62, 55, 51	Bailey Gatzert
West Seattle & Delridge	63, 12, 13, 33, 54, 20	Concord, West Seattle Elementary, Denny
Northwest	1, 2, 28	Broadview Thompson

On behalf of the School Traffic Safety Committee,

Mary Ellen Russell
Volunteer Member, School Traffic Safety Committee