



Allegra Calder, Co-Chair
Max Hepp-Buchanan, Co-Chair
Matthew Crane, Secretary
Dylan Ahearn
Jodi Connolly
Gabe Grijalva
Neal Komedal
Alfonso Lopez
Kristi Rennebohm Franz
Cecilia Roussel
Jessica Szelag
Jean White

To: Rob Berman, SR 520 Project Team
Kerry Pihlstrom, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

Date: September 13, 2012

Re: WSDOT SR 520 Design for Portage Bay Bridge and Montlake Blvd Interchange

Dear Mr. Burman and Ms. Pihlstrom:

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) thanks you for the opportunity to be part of the on-going study process that is evaluating non-motorized travel, specifically bicycles, along and around the area of the SR 520 project from the Montlake Blvd Interchange to 10th Avenue NE/Delmar Drive E/E Roanoke Street areas.

SBAB has the following set of recommendations regarding the west side of the SR 520 replacement project:

1. Include a separated 14-foot wide multi-use trail as part of the SR 520 Portage Bay Bridge replacement. SBAB strongly supports this and recommends further study of this option.
2. Improve/create connections across I-5 along E Roanoke Street from the proposed 10th and Delmar lidded areas. This connection is vital to link the new regional SR 520 trail to the west side of I-5 including South Lake Union, Eastlake, and ultimately to downtown Seattle.
3. Ensure complete bicycle connectivity with designs that utilize best practices from the new SR 520 Portage Bay Bridge trail to:
 - a. 10th Ave E with connections to the Capitol Hill neighborhood
 - b. E Roanoke Street with connections to the Eastlake neighborhood, South Lake Union neighborhood and downtown Seattle
 - c. Harvard Avenue E/Broadway E with connections to Eastlake Avenue and UW campus
4. Improve the north-south connection from Harvard Ave E/Broadway E to 10th Ave E. This is a vital bicycle link from Capitol Hill to UW.
5. Separate the merging of pedestrian and bicycles on the east side of Montlake Blvd north of the Montlake Interchange between E Shelby Street and NE Pacific Street. This will enhance safety for both bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planing processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

- City Council
Resolution 25534

Implementation of the above recommendations, especially the 14-foot wide Portage Bay Bridge trail, is aligned with the draft vision, goals and objectives currently proposed for the update of the Seattle Bicycle Master Plan, including:

- Significantly improving safety for bicycle riders and those they interface with for all trip purposes including commuting, recreating, physical exercise/health conditioning, family activities, etc.
- Creating a high quality bicycle network that safely, efficiently, and economically connects places people want to go
- Building outstanding, leading-edge bicycle facilities that welcome riders of all ages and abilities
- Building bicycle infrastructure that provides a welcoming environment for bicycle riding and supports bicycling as an environmentally healthy mode of transportation

In addition, this project, with the above recommendations, supports the City of Seattle's Walk, Bike, Ride Initiative and Climate Action Plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the recommendations made herein, please don't hesitate to contact us directly.

Kind regards,

Allegra Calder
Co-Chair, SBAB

Max Hepp-Buchanan
Co-Chair, SBAB

Cc: Members of the Seattle City Council
Mayor Mike McGinn, City of Seattle
Peter Hahn, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation
Goran Sparrman, Deputy Director, Seattle Department of Transportation
Dongho Chang, City Traffic Engineer, Seattle Department of Transportation