

# West Seattle Transportation Coalition

*Dedicated to advancing and improving  
all transportation modes to benefit the  
West Seattle peninsula.*

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The West Seattle Transportation Coalition is a Peninsula-wide organization working to address transportation and mobility issues for Seattle's largest constituency. We represent up to 100,000 people living and working in the 10 square mile area between the Duwamish River and Puget Sound.

The following is our submission to the City of Seattle as of April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in regard to the search for a new director of the Seattle Department of Transportation. The following are our group's responses to the city's survey questions.

## **What are the qualities, skills, abilities, and experience you think are important in order to succeed as the next Seattle Department of Transportation Director?**

1. The director should have extensive experience in managing a city with a variety of terrain, topography and weather challenges, such as hills, snow, rain, extensive waterways, and bridges.
2. The director should have skills in managing multiple competing constituencies on the community and elected levels.
3. The director should have experience dealing with incredibly large and disruptive construction projects, having successfully and measurably implemented plans to mitigate their impact.
4. The director should have experience and managing and reducing substantial maintenance backlogs.
5. The director should be committed to transparency.

## **What are the 3-4 key challenges or opportunities facing the SDOT Director in the next several years?**

1. The mitigation work that will be required in and around the Viaduct, tunnel, seawall, and new waterfront.
2. Rectifying longstanding and unresolved weaknesses in transportation planning for Seattle communities that are isolated geographically from the urban core.
3. Developing a cohesive, unified, and single transportation plan that integrates and blends all modes of travel.
4. Expanding transportation options in the city at a time when our population numbers are rapidly expanding year over year.

### **What are the 2-3 things SDOT (the department) does well?**

1. The Safe Routes To Schools program.
2. Engaging with the community when asked to and on their own initiative, and in the course of a given project. SDOT is always open to a given dialogue and this should continue.
3. Optimizing roads when asked to and for safety improvements.

### **What are 2-3 things SDOT the department) can do to improve?**

1. Maintaining an online, searchable public record of all outstanding approved projects current and future, funded or not, and to create a full listing of our current city transportation backlog.
2. Work much more aggressively to optimize traffic flows, such as traffic light optimization during commuting hours and for buses.
3. Developing and prioritizing transportation issues related to geographical boundaries.

### **For the city's transportation system as a whole, what is working well and what needs to be improved?**

1. There is no obvious and detailed single long-term vision of where we are going. There are individual master plans for various modes of travel, as well as neighborhood plans. The individual plans exist, but there is no obvious, single and holistic vision of where we should go in total. Where is the Seattle 2035 plan for transportation, and funding for it?
2. There is no clear view of what has been done, what is going on, and what is up coming for SDOT. The Fire Department has their Real-Time 911 page and the Police have online reports. For SDOT, with its backlogs and workload, where can the average citizen or group find all outstanding, pending, and future work in a given area, with timeline estimates until completion? Where is the online SDOT repository -- not project pages, but a total list of everything pending, and for how long it's been pending?