

WS Transportation Coalition Meeting Minutes, Thursday, June 25, 2015
Neighborhood House Highpoint Center, 6400 Sylvan Way SW, Seattle, WA 98126

6:20-6:30 Discussion of Admiral 47th & Waite, and 35th crosswalk changes – comments that this change was more politically motivated (better, safer places for crosswalks should have been chosen) than warranted (reckless driver killed pedestrian at that intersection).

6:30-6:45 Co-chair Amanda Kay Helmick called the meeting to order, initiated introductions, announced new board members, including Tom Linde as new Co-chair (see Attendees list below). No guest for tonight's meeting; board members and observers attended. Board and WSTC business were discussed.

Co-chair Helmick asked for announcements of new developments since last WSTC meeting. These included:

- Rasmussen has proposed Move Seattle (MS) amendments, "...including access & egress improvements to West Seattle peninsula.", but no money, time frame for study, or specified structure. Possibly \$30 million(?),
- Amanda's query to Scott Noble re: MS by-district funding equity still in process
- Joe S. public records request (personal) includes Qs: is MS money in-out, portable between districts? Are there polling data funds related to WS? What are named projects to be implemented vs. projects just named? Etc.
- CM Licata (& Sawant) alternative MS funding proposal – drew applause from audience in Council meeting, voted down by Council. Sea.Transit Blog sees parking tax as regressive, head tax impossible to administer. What alternatives to prop. tax? CM Rasmussen stated he doesn't want to offend business community
- No news on Endolyne Triangle or Rose St. crosswalk
- Inter-departmental teams still working on WS Bridge Transportation Corridor initiative; no schedule for naming citizen advisory committee
- WSTC delivered EIS comments June 22 for 2035 Seattle Comprehensive Plan to Tom Hauger @DPD: tom.hauger@seattle.gov. Peter Steinbreuck is honcho-ing Comp Plan development
- Notes on Nucor & Port research delivered to WSTC board. Board agrees that EIS required to address additional traffic issues presented by T5 development at Port
- Waterfront EIS to be released 6/29

Ensuing discussion:

WSTC issues with Move Seattle:

- It appears to be a \$900 million SDOT "slush fund": only half goes for infrastructure projects; the other half pays for planning. Questions: why isn't all MS money dedicated to on-the-ground improvements? The levy amounts to ¼ of SDOT's \$4 billion budget; does the other ¾ of SDOT budget lack funds for planning? Is MS money part of SDOT's \$4 billion, or does this swell its budget to \$5 billion?
- MS is a basketful of city-wide projects, apparently a blank check for other projects on SDOT radar.
- During tunnel project, no one seems to be paying attention to high-traffic volume side streets – 4th and 1st – no improvements there. The 4th Ave. exit from WS

Bridge is wide enough for, & probably intended for buses – when will that be used?
What is SDOT's plan, and who is doing the planning?

- The above indicates lack of SDOT transparency. That, added to backlash on WS building development and prop. tax, increases, coupled w/ failure to address Peninsula ingress-egress, may encourage rise of “Vote NO on MS” campaign.
- Current MS language allows SDOT to move money where needed, apparently regardless of listed projects: "In the annual City budget or by separate ordinance, the City shall from year-to-year determine the Transportation Improvements and funding allocations that will most effectively achieve the Levy goals and outcomes. Within a budget year the City is authorized to reallocate unexpended and unencumbered funds from one core strategy to another, by making operating budget transfers consistent with Seattle Municipal Code 5.08.020"
- Tom Linde suggested making a WSTC position statement, beyond offering objective perspectives. WSTC wrote letter to Mayor, Council & SDOT in May, testified at Council meeting June 2. Amanda cautioned not to risk burning bridges w/Mayor & Council (though they may be unhappy w/ us anyway by now), and if we write a public letter, let's present facts & let readers decide. She also urged WSTC members & others to comment on MS by e-mail & calls to leaders, and/or appear at public forums;
- Contact discussions should be re-initiated with WS Chamber of Commerce to reach consensus & create mutual support for ingress-egress funding, beyond Fauntleroy Boulevard project
- MS is confusing at best, disingenuous at worst. Many projects listed for WS are not clearly defined, or located – examples:
 1. WS “transit or multi-modal station” mentioned in MS near 35th & Avalon, with high price tag. Chas: looks like 35th & Avalon west side bus stop – removed in a day; can be replaced in a day at low cost; so can't call this a “station.”
 2. WS feeder lines to trunk line routes running downtown. What, where, when, how?
 3. Proposed run from Fauntleroy Way-California – station @Fauntleroy, near WS Bridge Transportation Corridor project, circles downtown, follows 4th, comes to Junction, California – already exists.
- Amanda has also asked Ben Noble about old projects. Mercer re-build – past schedule, over budget, carries no extra capacity. Question: at least, does traffic flow better between I-5 & Sea. Center now?
- Our need for rail or dedicated bus-way between WS and downtown not addressed – except for Rasmussen's planning money amendment. NO way to add more car capacity. Problem: Dedicated bus lane takes away car capacity; but more buses w/o dedicated lane exacerbates congestion
- Lander St. overpass from Port of Seattle perspective: it was looking at other possibilities than Lander; quick WSTC map check indicates no other possible E-W route (confirmed June 30 on background by SDOT)
- Joe Szilagyi put up a web poll on MS: as of June 30, about 33% in WS will vote for, 33% against, 33% undecided. Suggestion to take hard copies of poll in person to West Fest, Farmers Market, etc. Amanda volunteered Action Committee, & asked for other volunteers.

- Draft of comments from WSTC: Marty chair, plus Larry W, Tom Linde; Larry W, Deb Barker, Chris Bast, Chas R, Victoria N

Only 25% of Seattle population lives within walking distance of transit (?)

Suggests watching *Take Me For A Ride* movie

8:40 Meeting adjourned

Attendees May

Amanda K Helmick	Co-chair	Tom Linde	Co-chair
Joe Szylagi	Board	Marci Carpenter	Board
Ray Krueger	Board	Michael Taylor-Judd	Board
Martin Westerman	Board	Larry Wymer	Board
Mark Jacobs	Board		

Victoria Nelson

Mark Kaler, Gatewood

Bert Patrick

Jon Wright

Chas Redmond