

West Seattle Transportation Coalition

Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2018

I. Welcome and Introductions

Deb Barker called to order the regular meeting of the West Seattle Transportation Coalition (WSTC) at 6:35 pm on May 25, 2018 at the High Point Neighborhood House, 6400 SW Sylvan Way.

Introductions of attendees:

WSTC Board – Deb Barker, Mark Jacobs, Sam Cleary, Victoria Nelson, Chas Redmond.

Guests – Genesse Adkins, SDOT Chief of Staff

Summer Jawson, SDOT Senior Civil Engineer

Approval of minutes: Approval of prior month's meeting notes were not introduced.

II. Special Guests/Topics

Genesse Adkins:

Genesse spoke about the start of the search for a new SDOT director. This is beginning 6/18 and the department is looking for public input and a survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VJYD9W7>) has been posted for public comment. In the meantime, they are shifting resources internally due to changing responsibilities from ST3. In addition, the department is doing an internal review about they can make improvements in how they manage processes etc. and staff is assured they can be open about processes that have not gone well in the past.

Regarding Move Seattle, it was discovered that the department was meeting their deliverables but not spending down the budget as expected. It was due to a large amount of unspent money from the levy Bridging the Gap that was rolled over to the Move Seattle budget as required. In addition, there as an assumption that a budgeted amount be would spent in equal amounts each month. However, since the planning costs are less than (for example) the construction costs which will come later down the road, this meant that the expected spending amounts each month were lower than projected. They have hired a consultant to perform an audit.

Twenty-three of the levy's programs on track while eight need more review. Three in particular - new sidewalk construction, bicycle facilities, and multimodal corridors are going to have a gap. The sidewalk construction was determined by a court decree requiring construction of 1,250 curb ramps a year. A question was raised about the curb ramp recently installed by the WS Ferry dock. When SDOT was questioned as to why there was a new ramp but no crossing strips, they responded that it would be too dangerous to have anyone crossing at this section. Seems to be a disconnect here and a board member offered to follow up in an email about this issue.

They have talked with the Transit Advisory Board about the multimodal situation (such as Delridge's H Line), which was expected to obtain a large amount of federal dollars." This fund process is taking longer than originally thought due to the change in administrations focus on rural areas.

The Fauntleroy Boulevard project is on hold for the final route plan of light rail to West Seattle. They still hope to make some safety improvements. These new plans will be released to Lisa Herbold's office in the next few weeks and then to the public.

A new grant has been applied to the Federal government for the construction of the Highland Park roundabout. SDOT does not expect to hear back much before December.

A board member asked about the plans for the 90-year-old Magnolia Bridge. There are three options in consideration. Ten years ago, the replacement cost for a new bridge was around 250 Million dollars so funding is a question that will greatly affect how to proceed.

A couple of other items included the estimated completion of the 1st avenue utility work that should be done by October 1st. There will be a period of several weeks when the tunnel will not be open, and the viaduct will be coming down. This will be a very difficult traffic period for WS residents with little other options for getting to and through downtown. Planning by residents for alternatives will be very important.

The mayor is looking at congestion pricing for driving in downtown and is looking for solid data about how this might work in Seattle before releasing any recommendations. Genesse indicated the mayor will rely heavily on data for these types of decisions.

Summer Jawson

Summer spoke about Phase Two of the West Seattle Greenway project of Highpoint to the WS Junction. This phase is 60 percent complete. A discussion ensued among the meeting attendees about the different route options, impacts to Junction parking, hills that pose a challenge in WS and safety.

There is a survey on-line for interested residents that should have closed at the end of April, but this writer just took it today.

Summer brought handouts to assist the group in reviewing the route options.

III. New Business

- Discussion of new business included confirmation that Sam will be stepping down in August and his proposed high school replacement, Theo, will be attending the June meeting to announce his candidacy for the board position.
- Kate Wells officially announced her candidacy for a vacant board position and provided a brief personal biography. The board expects to call a vote of her candidacy at the June meeting.

IV. Adjournment – Deb Barker adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Victoria Nelson