



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Department of Transportation

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Director's Report for Transportation Committee February 25, 2014

CURRENT ISSUES

- Brief Seawall/Waterfront update
- Bicycle Master Plan
- First Hill Streetcar
- West Duwamish Trail

DIVISION ACTIVITIES

Policy and Planning

- **Freight Master Plan Request for Qualifications (RFQ) published:** The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the first citywide Freight Master Plan (FMP) was published on Wednesday, February 12. SDOT will develop the FMP to address unique characteristics, needs, and impacts of freight mobility within the broader context of how freight movement and industrial lands contribute to the City's and the region's overall economy. The FMP scope will likely include elements that have been part of other citywide modal master plans such as an existing conditions report; a freight policy framework; a future conditions assessment; an update to the City's designated freight network; identification of near- and long-term improvements; design guidelines; and creation of an implementation strategy that includes a data-driven prioritization framework. The project team expects to select a consultant by the end of March and launch the project this spring.

Capital Projects and Roadway Structures

- **Ballard Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project:** Work on the last of the seismic retrofit projects funded by the Bridging the Gap program was completed ahead of schedule and with none of the traffic impacts that were originally anticipated.

The contractor, Quigg Brothers, secured cofferboxes to enable in-water work to be finished within a single "fish window" rather than two, which lessened the environmental impacts. They also worked entirely from below the bridge with lifts and scaffolding on barges which avoided any need to close traffic lanes on the bridge during construction.

Street Maintenance

- **Repair Work for West Seattle Microsurfacing Project:** In early February, Street Maintenance Asphalt Paving crews began preparing streets in Arbor Heights and Fauntleroy to receive a microsurfacing sealcoat this summer. Microsurfacing is a preventative maintenance treatment that extends the life of pavement while it is still in good condition.
- **Preparation for Snow and Ice Storm:** Street Maintenance Division (SMD) forces mobilized at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, to prepare for the oncoming snow/ice storm. By 6:30 p.m., SMD had eight plow/spreader trucks treating routes with salt and plowing as warranted. At the peak level of operations SMD had sixteen trucks out on the routes throughout the night.

The crews applied 479 Tons of granular rock salt and 6366 gallons of MgCl salt brine during this event. The costs incurred during these operations amounted to \$110,279.

Traffic Management and Policy & Planning

- **RapidRide E Line:** Aurora Avenue North will celebrate the arrival of King County Metro Transit's RapidRide E Line on February 15, 2014. The E Line replaces the current Route 358, Metro's second highest ridership route, serving 12,000 rides each weekday.
The E Line is the third RapidRide service to arrive in Seattle and is part of an ongoing partnership with the Seattle Department of Transportation to improve mobility along the busy corridor. RapidRide service will feature transit lanes, transit signal priority, frequent all-day service, and passenger amenities such as well-lit shelters, real-time "next bus" signs, off-board ORCA card payment, hybrid-electric buses with three doors and free Wi-Fi. To support E Line service, SDOT installed pedestrian improvements, including new sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks. A new pedestrian signal was installed at Aurora and North 95th Street.

RapidRide E Line is the third RapidRide service to arrive in Seattle. The Aurora Avenue corridor will see an overall 25 percent increase in service when the E Line is introduced. Installation of transit-only lanes and transit signal priority are expected to reduce travel times. Off-board ORCA card readers, the use of bus rear doors and traffic signal priority will all work together to speed boarding and get buses through faster.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **AWV Parking Mitigation Stakeholders Group**: SDOT and WSDOT hosted a meeting with the AWV Parking Mitigation Stakeholders Group, which includes Leslie Smith of the Alliance for Pioneer Square, Ryan Smith of Martin Smith Inc., Kate Joncas of the Downtown Seattle Association, and Bob Donegan of Ivar's representing waterfront businesses on February 4 to hear feedback and discuss program performance. The group is keenly interested in the pending acquisition of the surface parking lot on Western Ave., between Spring and Seneca Streets. The larger parking stakeholders group comprising representatives of businesses, residents and sports teams gather for their quarterly meeting on February 20 for a program update and to discuss the future direction of the effort.
- **Friends of Waterfront Update on Seawall & Construction Experience**: The Waterfront Team will be presenting a Seawall + Construction Experience presentation to the Friends of the Waterfront on the evening of February 13 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- **Waterfront Week**: The Waterfront Program will be launching "Waterfront Week" from March 5 – 9 to celebrate all things waterfront. This series of events will reveal the newest design progress, share an insider's look at how to build a seawall and engage in conversation about opportunities for art, design and play on the waterfront and beyond. All Waterfront Week events are free and open to the public.
- **West Duwamish Trail Open House**: Capital Projects and Roadway Structures (CPRS) staff presented the history of the project, the alignments considered and the reasons for the final design of the Westlake Duwamish Trail. Approximately six businesses were represented by owners or managers. Area residents and bicycle advocates were also in attendance. Plans were discussed for a Truck Turning Rodeo on February 22, for property owners to try out their post-construction driveway widths.
- **Broadway Streetcar Extension**: SDOT has met with the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce and the Capitol Hill Community Council to begin discussing the design of the Broadway Streetcar Extension, which will extend north along Broadway from the First Hill Streetcar line. The purpose of these meetings is to build relationships and hear the concerns and interests of the community in order to enable early exchange of information between the City and the community. The project design consultant is expected to be under contract by mid-March.

- **Parking Pay Station Replacement Project:** The project to replace SDOT's aging parking pay stations continues. Evaluators from SDOT management and pay station technical staff, SPD Parking Enforcement and FAS Collections and Treasury participated in presentations and demonstrations with the four finalists: Cale America, Digital Payment Technologies, Parkeon and IPS Group. The four vendors are installing pay stations along 4th Ave between Stewart and Bell Streets for a one-month live trial that begins February 14. Outreach efforts will include a press release, a web presence with an online survey, a tour, signs, fliers and hands-on demo opportunity for members of the Parking Sounding Board, adjacent businesses and social media.
- **Parking Sounding Board:** On Thursday, February 6, SDOT held a Parking Sounding Board meeting to discuss results from the 2013 Annual Paid Parking Study and potential on-street parking management changes. The discussion covered several neighborhoods where data show parking conditions above or below the target occupancy. We also reviewed evening conditions in Fremont, Ballard, Green Lake, and along 12th Ave where parking is extremely full at 7 p.m., indicating a need to extend paid parking until 8 p.m. to maintain access to restaurants and other businesses. Attendees expressed support for SDOT's data-driven policy and concurred with the various paid parking area data results. At the March 6 meeting, SDOT will present the proposed 2014 changes to parking rates, time limits and hours of operation. This is prior to responding to the City Council proviso on the 2014 paid parking asset replacement project budget.
- **Partnership with Feet First Supports Stairway Clean-Up:** On January 20, volunteers from Feet First (a pedestrian advocacy organization) participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service by cleaning up a stairway in the Olympic Hills neighborhood. SDOT Urban Forestry and the Public Space Management Program partnered with Feet First to support this effort by providing pre-event site reviews and guidance, delivering SDOT's tool trailer for use during the clean-up, arranging a dumpster and mulch, and removing debris at the end of the day. The 20 volunteers cleared blackberries, ivy, and other yard waste from a stairway that is part of the walking school bus route to Olympic Hills Elementary School.