



# City of Seattle Seattle Planning Commission

Barbara Wilson, Executive Director

## *Commissioners*

Linda Amato, Chair  
Chris Fiori, Vice-Chair  
Catherine Benotto  
Joshua Brower  
David Cutler  
Jerry Finrow  
Colie Hough-Beck  
Mark S. Johnson  
Martin H. Kaplan  
Kay Knapton  
Amalia Leighton  
Kevin McDonald  
Leslie Miller  
Christopher Persons  
Matt Roewe  
Michelle Zeidman

## *Staff*

Barbara Wilson,  
Executive Director  
Katie Sheehy,  
Planning Analyst  
Diana Canzoneri,  
Demographer &  
Senior Policy Analyst

June 15, 2009

Grace Crunican, Director  
Seattle Department of Transportation  
PO Box 34996  
Seattle WA 98124-4996

### **RE: Commissioner Comments on Seattle's Pedestrian Master Plan**

Dear Ms. Crunican,

The Planning Commission applauds you and your staff for your work on the Pedestrian Master Plan. The plan is an outstanding step toward making Seattle the most walkable city in the nation and should serve as a model for the City's future planning efforts.

We recognize that the plan reflects the thoughtful input of many City departments, citizen volunteers, elected officials and employees from other government agencies. We commend SDOT's leadership and creativity in coordinating this work. It can be challenging to synthesize information from such a broad range of stakeholders and the Pedestrian Master Plan exemplifies a truly multidisciplinary project.

The Commission strongly supports the plan's mission to make Seattle the most walkable city in the nation. We appreciate that the goals of safety, equity, vibrancy and health have specific performance measures that can be evaluated in order to determine how well those goals are being met. This will be essential to implementing the Pedestrian Master Plan and will also help achieve Comprehensive Plan goals.

There are a few particular aspects of the Pedestrian Master Plan that the Commission would like to note:

#### ***Prioritizing funding and implementation***

SDOT's criteria for how the City should prioritize funding and implementation by balancing vibrancy, equity and corridor function is an excellent model that maximizes local and regional investments in transit. Significant data about the city's sidewalks and intersections was collected and analyzed for the plan that prioritizes how and where existing and future funds should be spent. This rigorous and innovative approach forms a tangible basis for implementation.

#### ***Web-based plan***

The on-line model of the Pedestrian Master Plan makes the most of current technology. This makes it easier for people to use and increases access to other resources. The Commission hopes SDOT continues to explore Web-based plans where appropriate and that other City departments follow suit.

***Public safety and education***

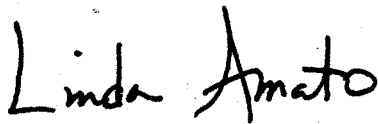
The Pedestrian Master Plan is an extremely useful tool to help educate Seattle’s residents and elected officials about how our sidewalks, streets and intersections impact public health and contribute to safe, vibrant communities. The Commission supports progressive policies that focus on making Seattle’s streets safe and efficient for all modes of motorized *and* non-motorized transportation, rather than focusing exclusively on moving vehicles. We encourage you to continue the education and enforcement programs outlined in the plan.

***Increase livability throughout Seattle***

Improving the pedestrian environment will help make Seattle an even better place to live, not only by increasing mobility for individual citizens, but by improving public health, reinforcing vibrant business districts, and helping to mitigate global climate change. The Pedestrian Master Plan will help achieve these goals.

The Commission is happy to continue providing our comments and recommendations as the Pedestrian Master Plan is implemented in the coming years. If you have any questions about our comments, please don’t hesitate to contact Barbara Wilson at (206) 684-0431.

Linda Amato, Chair



Seattle Planning Commission

- cc: Mayor Greg Nickels  
Seattle City Council  
Tim Ceis, Nathan Torgelson, Mayor’s Office  
Tracy Krawczyk, Barbara Gray, Jennifer Wieland, SDOT  
Diane Sugimura, Alan Justad, Ray Gastil, DPD  
Norm Schwab, Council Central Staff

**Record of Disclosure and Recusal:**

- Commissioner Matt Roewe disclosed that his firm, VIA Architecture, provides transit and station planning services in and around Seattle.
- Commissioner Michelle Zeidman disclosed that she is working with Sound Transit on bicycle parking and transit-oriented development around light rail stations.
- Commissioner Josh Brower disclosed that his firm, Tupper Mack Brower, has an on-call contract with Sound Transit.
- Commissioner Amalia Leighton disclosed that her firm, SvR, is working on the Pedestrian Master Plan and that she has been directly involved in the project.
- Commissioner David Cutler disclosed that his firm, GGLO, is working with Futurewise on a transit communities report.
- Commissioner Colie Hough-Beck disclosed that her firm, HBB Landscape Architects, provides consulting services for SDOT on transportation projects