



City of Seattle

Bicycle Advisory Board

Pedestrian Advisory Board

October 16, 2009

Hon. Tim Burgess
Seattle City Council
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Re: long-term funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements

Dear Councilmember Burgess:

On behalf of the Seattle Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Boards, we applaud the Seattle City Council for its recent efforts in promoting Seattle's bikeability and walkability through the passage of the Bicycle Master Plan, the Pedestrian Master Plan, and the Complete Streets Ordinance, as well as numerous resolutions supporting these efforts.

Unfortunately, these impressive plans, ordinances, and resolutions currently lack the funding necessary to ensure their implementation and success. We would like to bring to your attention the growing shortfall for funding pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in Seattle. Based on the past three years of Bicycle Master Plan funding, the City of Seattle projects to fall roughly 60-70% short in funding to complete the recommended projects contained in the 10-year Plan. Similarly, the recently approved Pedestrian Master Plan and current funding rate would take hundreds of years to complete the sidewalk backlog.

As plans created by and endorsed by all elements of our City government, with a specific timeline to meet well-defined goals, they deserve a permanent and dedicated funding stream to help meet both the existing commitments and the growing needs for bicycling and walking in Seattle.

We request that City Council explore the development of a long-term funding mechanism for these critical efforts to improve public safety, benefit public health, lower long-term infrastructure maintenance costs, provide transportation choices, and improve Seattle's quality of life. Both Boards recognize that these are challenging economic times, and thus we ask to meet with you discuss the 2010 budget and longer-term strategies to establish and sustain a dedicated funding stream for these essential investments.

Sincerely,

Tom Williams, chair, SPAB

Sean Cryan, chair SBAB

Blake Trask, vice chair, SBAB