

April 28, 2020



Memo: Biking to Bridge the Gap

From: West Seattle Bike Connections & Duwamish Valley Safe Streets.
with Seattle Neighborhood Greenways & Cascade Bicycle Club

To: Sam Zimbabwe, Director, SDOT
Heather Marx, West Seattle High-Rise Bridge Safety Project Manager, SDOT

Emily asked us how to ride her bike safely from West Seattle to work at the VA Hospital. Erin asked how to ride to UW Medical Center. Travis is willing to commute on his new e-bike all the way to Green Lake. We are fielding many inquiries. Bike sales are taking off. With alternate route traffic delays looming, Georgetown and South Park residents are fearful of gridlock, air pollution, and for the safety of their children walking to school. We are writing to suggest mitigation measures for the bridge closure to make it safe and efficient for many more people to bike instead of drive.

OUR GOAL

Mobility for West Seattle, SODO and the Duwamish Valley.

Keep people and goods moving safely across much lower-capacity bridges over the Duwamish while the West Seattle High-Rise Bridge is closed. Mitigate impacts on our communities. Honor Seattle's commitments to equitable transportation, our environment, social justice, and economic vitality.

STRATEGIES. Encourage or incentivize as many people as possible to use bikes or transit, or both, instead of driving private vehicles. Accomplish this before the end of COVID-19 restrictions.

1. Improve conditions to make it safe, efficient and comfortable for people to ride bikes and transit.
2. Concentrate on safety and wayfinding for biking and bike/transit connections:
 - On key West Seattle bike routes to the Spokane Street bridge, and from the bridge on East Marginal Way S to Pioneer Square, Downtown, SODO Trail, and SODO light rail station.
 - On bike routes to the 1st Ave S bridge and South Park Bridge, and bike routes within South Park and Georgetown that are impacted by alternate route traffic and may also be needed for biking from West Seattle whenever the Spokane Street Bridge is closed.
 - On routes to and bike parking at the King County Water Taxi dock at Seacrest.
3. Protect Neighborhood Greenway streets near alternate routes from cut-through traffic, to keep them safe for residents and for walking and biking by people of all ages and abilities.
4. Ensure availability of bikeshare bikes. Provide bikeshare discounts and bike/e-bike financing to people with low incomes.
5. Use up to 1% of the bridge repair cost for mitigation measures for bike and pedestrian safety and efficiency.
6. Use advocacy groups like West Seattle Bike Connections, Duwamish Valley Safe Streets, Cascade Bicycle Club and Seattle Neighborhood Greenways to:
 - Identify opportunities to improve safety and wayfinding.
 - Provide route advice, route maps, bike buddy matching, bike trains and educational rides.
 - Connect people to good advice and local bike shops for selecting and maintaining bikes, including e-bikes.

RECOMMENDED WORK FOR STREET SAFETY**PRESERVE these already planned and mostly funded projects from budget cuts or delays:**

1. **East Marginal Way S Corridor Project**
2. **Delridge RapidRide H Corridor Project**
3. **West Marginal Way safe crossing at the Duwamish Longhouse**
4. **Georgetown - South Park Trail**

EXPEDITE these key Bicycle Master Plan high priority routes:**1. Sylvan Way SW / SW Orchard and east to Highland Park:**

Build a combination of protected bike lanes and off-street walking/biking paths, to connect from 35th Ave SW at High Point down to Delridge Way SW and up to 16th Ave SW and South Seattle College, and connecting down to the Duwamish Trail via Highland Park Way. This is a key east-west route serving disadvantaged neighborhoods. Consider a parallel route option using neighborhood greenway treatment on NE leg of SW Orchard to 18th SW to SW Webster to 11th SW to SW Holden, in lieu of bike lanes on Dumar Way SW and SW Holden west of 11th SW.

2. Highland Park Way SW: This is a key east-west route to the Duwamish Trail north to Spokane St Bridge and east to 1st Ave S Bridge and South Park Bridge. Provide an all ages-and-abilities bike route both directions from SW Holden to West Marginal Way SW / Duwamish Trail. Options:

- a. Uphill protected bike lane as shown in 10% design concept for the [Highland Park Traffic Safety Project](#), and repair/repave the bumpy asphalt sidewalk on south side.
- b. Or, rebuild the south sidewalk as a two-way multi-use path meeting City standard.

3. 1st Ave S Bridge to 1st Ave S:

Develop a safe connection from the bridge to the viaduct over the rail yards on 1st Avenue S.

4. SW Roxbury:

Complete the bike lanes, even if not fully protected. Resurfacing and painting is doable without reducing traffic lanes.

QUICKLY IMPLEMENT spot improvements for wayfinding and safe routes:

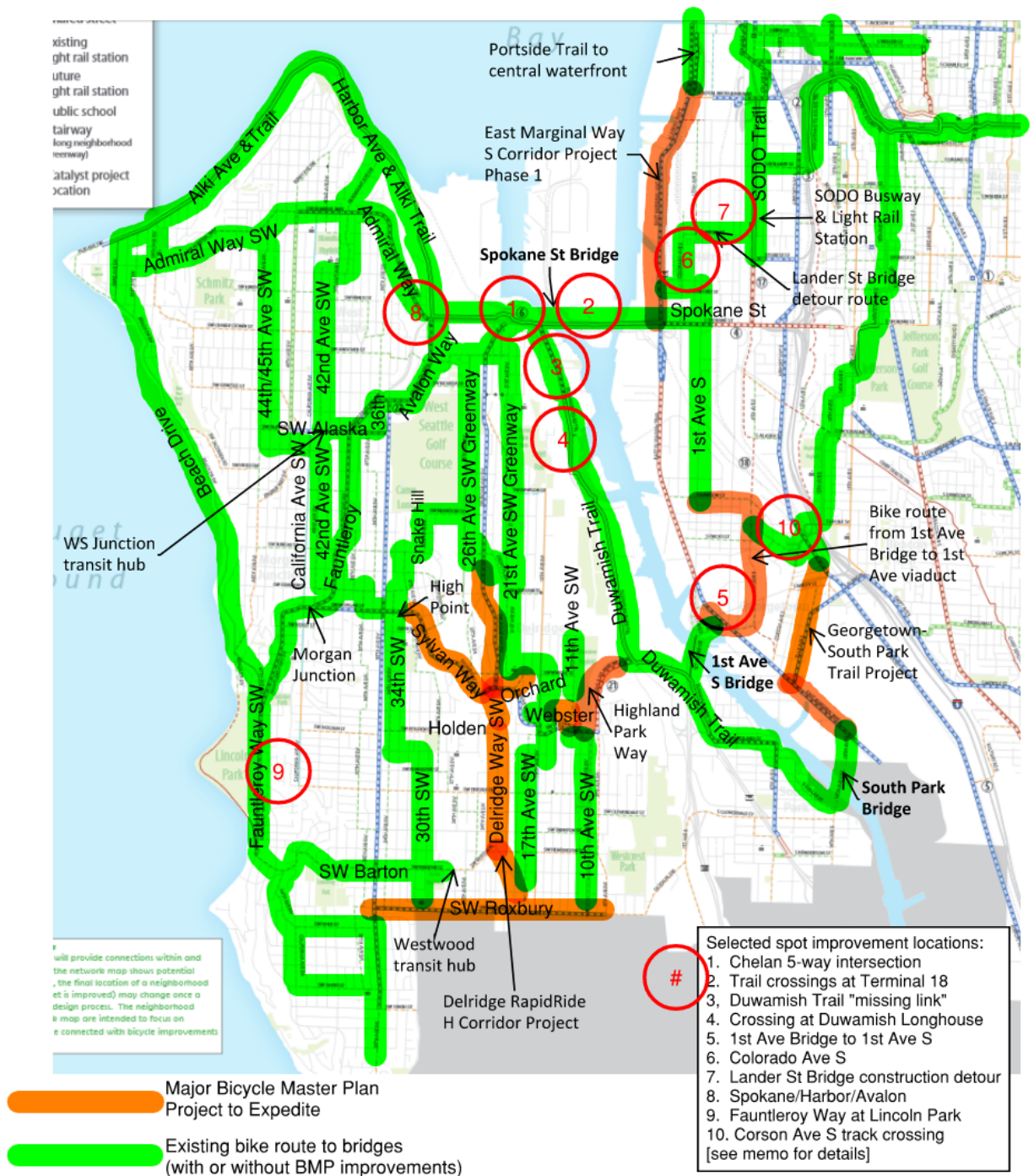
On Spokane Street Bridge routes at the Chelan 5-way intersection; on Fauntleroy Way and Admiral Way; on the “Nucor Trail” connection from Delridge to the Alki Trail; at Terminal 18 trail crossings on Harbor Island; on East Marginal Way; and on the connections to the SODO light rail station and SODO Trail.

On 1st Avenue South Bridge and South Park Bridge routes at the Duwamish Trail “missing link” from the Alki Trail; on Highland Park Way at West Marginal Way; at rough rail crossings on the Duwamish Trail and in Georgetown; and on routes in Georgetown through SODO.

Details are in attached Appendix A.

Biking to Bridge the Gap

Key routes to the Spokane Street Bridge, 1st Ave S Bridge, South Park Bridge



Appendix A – Recommended Spot Improvements

Selected projects from the 2020 Your Voice Your Choice submittals with traffic safety benefit for alternate routes and Spokane Street bridge routes, especially those that have the most race & social justice benefits. Expedite implementation. Examples:

1. **Colorado Ave S:** Resurface cratered paving on Colorado Ave S for ~200 feet between S Hanford and S Lander Streets, on bike route from West Seattle to SODO Trail and SODO light rail station. [YVYC Bicycle – 2943 Colorado Ave S]
2. **West Seattle Bridge Trail / SW Spokane Place crossing at Terminal 18:** Move 11th Ave SW traffic signal to this location at trail crossing. [YVYC Bicycle – 1000 SW Spokane St (sic)]
3. **23rd Ave SW “Nucor Trail”:** Improve lighting, visibility and paving on biking/walking connection from Delridge Way to SW Spokane Street and Alki Trail. [YVYC Walkway – SW Charlestown & 23rd Ave SW]
4. **West Marginal Place SW and 16th/17th SW** improvements along the Duwamish route “missing link”. [YVYC Bicycle – 3611 Marginal Place SW]
5. **SW Admiral Way from Fairmount Bridge to SW Manning:** Add downhill bike lane per BMP. [YVYC Bicycle – SW City View & SW Admiral Way]
6. **Corson Ave S railroad track crossing:** Rebuild the sidewalk at UP track crossing by Georgetown playfield. Significant obstacle and ADA violation in present condition. [YVYC Bicycle – 5609 Corson Ave S]
7. **Duwamish Trail railroad track crossing:** Replace the crossing at north end of trail. [YVYC Bicycle – 4215 West Marginal Way SW]

Other spot improvements:

8. **East Marginal Way S:** Install temporary jersey barriers to separate north-bound bike lane from general purpose lane wherever feasible, but especially north and south of S Hanford St intersection, to prevent drivers from using the bike lane as an extremely dangerous right-side “passing lane”. Enforce the “freight only” right turn lane at S Atlantic St.
9. **West Seattle Bridge Trail / Terminal 18 Entry Crossing:** Add "Do not block" signage and paint on the road at the T18 crossing. Port drayage trucks waiting to enter the terminal have been blocking the crossing.
10. **West Seattle Bridge Trail / SW Spokane Place crossing at Terminal 18:** Add a speed hump or raised crosswalk to reduce vehicle speeds.
11. **Chelan 5-way intersection:** Improve wayfinding signage; at the Delridge slip lane crossing, paint a center stripe and arrows on the sidewalk to guide riders to the right of the bike sensor that triggers the flashing beacon; provide a longer curb cut at Delridge intersection for better access from the trail to the bike box; add a bike sensor to the bike box on Chelan Ave SW at SW Spokane St.
12. **SW Spokane/ Harbor SW /Avalon Way SW:** Route finding signs for the left turn bike lane from the trail. Replace the missing placard from the bike crossing beg button. Change the NO TURN ON RED to illuminate during the all-red phase prior to the bike signal turning green.
13. **Lander Street Bridge construction zone:** Keep the Detour signs updated. Consider legibility from across the street on 1st Ave side.

14. **Highland Park Way SW at West Marginal Way SW:** Uncover the paved sidewalk buried by dirt and vegetation on north side from intersection up to the entrance of the service road that joins up with the West Duwamish Greenbelt trails to Riverview Playfields, South Seattle College, and the 14th SW / SW Holly trailhead.
15. **West Marginal Way SW:** Clear vegetation and private encroachments on west side pedestrian pathway and sidewalk.
16. **1st Ave S:** Clear private encroachments and parking on sidewalk zone of west side right-of-way in the blocks between S Spokane St and the viaduct over the rail yard. Make low-cost sidewalk paving improvements for walking and biking.
17. **Fauntleroy Way SW:** Clear vegetation overgrowing into the east side bike lane across from the WA State ferry terminal. Fill in gap in uphill unseparated bike lane from SW Thistle to SW Webster opposite Lincoln Park.

Contacts:

West Seattle Bike Connections:

Don Brubeck. westseattlebikeconnections@gmail.com

Duwamish Valley Safe Streets:

Jesse Moore. jesse@dvsafestreets.org.

Peaches Thomas. peachesthomas@dvsafestreets.org

Seattle Neighborhood Greenways:

Clara Cantor. clara@seattlegreenways.org

Cascade Bicycle Club:

Vicky Clarke. vickyc@cascadebicycleclub.org