

Ravenna-Bryant Community Association
6535 Ravenna Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115

September 3, 2013

Peter Hahn, Director
Seattle Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

RE: Draft Bicycle Master Plan – SBAB Comments on NE 65th Street

Dear Mr. Hahn,

Members of the Board of the Ravenna-Bryant Community Association (RBCA) reviewed the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board's (SBAB) August 29, 2013 letter regarding the proposed cycle tracks for NE 65th Street. Although SBAB acknowledges implementation challenges and community concerns, they recommend continued inclusion of that arterial for the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) update and suggests that these design limitations, challenges, and concerns be revisited during implementation. We strongly disagree with this approach and urge you to remove the proposed NE 65th Street cycle tracks from the BMP.

RBCA supports the BMP's goal of an interconnected bicycle network throughout the City of Seattle. We believe that the expanded use of greenways and cycle tracks are necessary. NE 65th Street is the wrong site for a cycle track because: it has a heavy volume of vehicle traffic; incorporates numerous bus routes with frequent stops and strong ridership; serves as an established and busy commercial transit route; and has over 100 businesses that are located along that street. In addition to being too narrow to accommodate both cycle tracks and more than one lane of traffic in each direction for most of its length, NE 65th would be required to eliminate parking, negatively impacting businesses and the community.

On August 12, 2013, nearly 400 people attended a town hall meeting with Mayor McGinn and Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) staff at the Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center on the subject of the proposed NE 65th Street cycle tracks. The overwhelming majority of community members in attendance expressed opposition to cycle tracks being placed on that arterial. The Mayor informed those in attendance that the final BMP draft update would not be submitted to the City Council until November. The Mayor also stated that he and SDOT staff would consider the community's comments when finalizing that draft.

We urge you to consider other alternative routes that will serve the purposes of SBAB "connecting important neighborhoods, business districts, parks, schools, and future transit centers all the way from Magnuson Park to Green Lake Park." We understand that for cyclists NE 65th Street may be the most direct route, but that corridor is not capable of accommodating cycle tracks along with existing transportation uses. Although other routes may not be as direct, we believe that they will provide safer alternatives and will not be difficult or inconvenient to cyclists. Residents of the communities impacted by the proposed NE 65th Street cycle tracks are likely to suffer far greater harm if this plan goes forward.

The Ravenna-Bryant Community Association asks you to respect the wishes of the majority of the residents of our community and remove the proposed cycle tracks for NE 65th Street from the BMP update.

Sincerely,

Tony Provine
President

Cc: Mayor Mike McGinn, Seattle City Councilmembers