

Northeast District Council

4534 University Way NE

Seattle, WA 98105

(206)-233-3732

<http://www.northeastdistrictcouncil.wordpress.com>

February 5, 2015

Mayor Ed Murray & Members of the City Council
City of Seattle
600 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Protected Bicycle Lanes on Roosevelt Way NE

Dear Mayor Murray & Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Northeast District Council of neighborhoods (NEDC), representing 15 northeast business and community groups, we urge you to direct the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to adhere to City Council Resolution 31515 which approved the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP). SDOT has recently announced a "repaving project" and subsequently informed the public of a planned protected bike lane on Roosevelt Way NE from the University Bridge to NE 65th Street. SDOT has not undertaken the community outreach and public engagement required under Section 5 of the resolution.

Section 5. Consistent with the Bicycle Master Plan's Strategy 7.1 and Action 7.1.1, as bicycle projects are prioritized and funded, SDOT will engage with the surrounding community (residents and businesses) to understand neighborhood priorities and concerns regarding bicycle improvements and use of the right of way within the relevant corridor identified in the Bicycle Master Plan. More detailed design and community engagement may lead to a project being developed in a different way or location than envisioned in the Plan, including where multiple bicycle facilities serve parallel transportation corridors.

While we supported the goals of the BMP, NEDC was concerned that community input and participation in the development of the BMP was disregarded. In response to our concerns, we have consistently been told by Council, the Mayor, and SDOT that community engagement will be required when segments of the BMP are scheduled for implementation. Further, we were emphatically told that Section 5 of Resolution 31515 was drafted to provide that assurance. The intent of that section of the resolution is clear: Community members and stakeholders should have an opportunity to consider SDOT's proposal and, if desired, require alterations.

The type of outreach being undertaken by SDOT does not rise to the level of community engagement. SDOT has merely announced their planned implementation of a major section of protected bike lane on this arterial which is a critical bus, auto and freight transit route. Additionally, scores of businesses along that corridor may be adversely impacted if the proposed plan is implemented by SDOT. The open houses and drop-ins are not intended to encourage community involvement in the plan process, but are designed to tell the public what has already been decided and to invite business owners along the route give suggestions about access driveways.

We ask that SDOT be directed to conduct genuine and meaningful community engagement and consider alternative routes before implementing this protected bicycle lane project on Roosevelt Way NE.

Sincerely,



Gabrielle Gerhard, Co-Chair
5916 NE 60th St.
Seattle, Washington 98115
206-972-6830
ggerhard1@gmail.com



Tony Provine, Co-Chair
7527 Ravenna Avenue NE
Seattle, Washington 98115
206-769-7819
tprovine@msn.com

cc: Scott Kubly, Director – Seattle Department of Transportation

Belvedere Terrace Community Council
Hawthorne Hills Community Council
Inverness Community Club
Laurelhurst Community Club
Matthews Beach Community Council

Portage Bay/Roanoke Park Community Council
Ravenna Bryant Community Association
Residents of Magnuson Park
Roosevelt Neighborhood Association
Roosevelt Neighbors' Alliance
University District Community Council

University Park Community Club
View Ridge Community Council
Wedgwood Community Council
Windermere North Community Association