

South Park Walking Audit

Monday June 6



Twenty-two people, including several children met at Concord Elementary school for the walk. Our group included the principal of the school, teachers, parents, students, neighborhood residents, and Seattle Department of Transportation staff. We walked around the school for an hour and a half, taking pictures and notes. This the email version; for a printed version, call Feet First at 206-652-2310. Also SDOT will have a report for community members as well.

General issues

1. A number of intersections do not seem safe.
2. There are bushes and trees that need trimming along the walk routes.
3. There are no longer crossing guards, which in the past had been very helpful.
4. There is speeding on Concord and in alleys.



S. Concord and 7th Ave. S.

At this intersection there are two marked crosswalks and two high visibility signs. However the map of the school walk route shows that children could be crossing from three directions. Community members state that cars coming up the hill, on 7th Ave. S going South towards S. Concord, go very quickly and may not see people in the crosswalks. Cars are also going fast north on 7th approaching the intersection, and cars are also speeding along S. Concord past the school to the intersection.

This is another view of the intersection, where there is poor compliance with the crossing signs and markings. We would like consideration of stop signs each direction.



Another view of the intersection. Only two crosswalks are marked, indicating the preferred route, although children could be coming from other directions.



S. Henderson and 7th Ave. S.

Neighbors are concerned that at this intersection there are cars coming rapidly up the hill, and they may not see children walking. There have been accidents between cars because of visibility and speed problems. Because of the hill we are asking for consideration of stop signs here as well.

Vehicles on the Sidewalk

Going south along 7th Ave. S. beyond Henderson we found a number of vehicles parked on the sidewalk, blocking the school walk route. The children walk in the street and are at risk. These cars can be reported at 206-625-5011 then 2 then 8. We asked whether signs might help. If the streets had curbs, this would be much less likely to happen.



Here are more vehicles parked on the sidewalk. We discussed options, such as contacting the owners or placing notes on their windshield, asking them to not park on the sidewalk. Also, speeding is a problem here.

S. Director and 7th Ave.-Lack of Sidewalks

Here we have turned the corner and are going east on S. Director towards 8th Ave. S. There are no sidewalks here, and it is not on the school walk route, yet some children may walk here. Large areas of Seattle do not have sidewalks. The neighborhood can contact SDOT and the Seattle City Council to express that this is a priority for them, though funding is limited currently.



Well-travelled routes Without Sidewalks

This is a view west on S. Director towards 5th Ave. S. and Marra Farms. Many people walk this route. The neighborhood could talk with Department of Neighborhoods to consider applying for grants to fund sidewalks.

New Construction Without Sidewalks

This is the view from S. Director south on 7th Ave. S. This new construction is not adding sidewalks because of weaknesses in the Seattle code. Other communities, including Orlando Florida, require sidewalks when even a single unit of housing is constructed.





Speeding Trucks and Cars in a School Zones

This is a view at 8th Ave. S. and Director. Neighbors complained that trucks speed down the road, shaking their houses. Residents noted accidents and broken fences, and frequent speeding during hours when the school zone 20 mph speed limit is in effect. Neighbors could ask police to deploy the mobile radar speed reader, a board that posts speeds for drivers to see their own speeds. It could be combined with added enforcement, call 684-8757.

S. Henderson St. and 8th Ave. S.

The marked crosswalk is faded here, and it is on the school walk route.

S. Henderson St. and 10th Ave. S.

We walked across the walk bridge over W. Marginal Way S. and under the bridge to a pathway north along the Highway 99. New developments of multi-family housing are planned, but neighbors are concerned about the poor condition of the street and sidewalks.



Trail Issues

As we went along the pathway which ran just east of the highway, there was a lot of freeway noise. There are sound walls now in the suburbs, why not here?

For maintenance concerns the number 206-684-8562 can be called.

Lack of Curb Cuts

As we came to 8th Ave S. and Donovan at the end of the pathway, we noted that there are no curb cuts. If disabled folks need them, SDOT should be called.



Concerns about Design at S. Cloverdale and 8th Ave. S.

Vegetation is overgrown, with thorns out into the sidewalk right-of-way. We also discussed concerns about the new library. The Design Review process provides a forum to express these concerns, and the website at City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development : <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/dclu/>, provides information on how to get involved.



Crossing guards formerly at 8th Ave. S. and Cloverdale.

Neighbors expressed dismay that there are no longer crossing guards at this very busy intersection, despite children using it on the school walk route. The Seattle police cut the guards, yet there are probably many in the neighborhood who would like to serve as guards.

Vegetation Blocking the Sidewalk

We walked on the south side of Cloverdale, and found bushes blocking the sidewalk. To report, call 206-684-7899.



Cars Blocking the Sidewalk

At the corner of 7th Ave. S. and S. Cloverdale there are frequently cars blocking the crosswalk. We discussed whether a sign indicating that it is a walk route to school might help, as well as calling the police for enforcement, 206-625-5011 then 2 then 8. Also, there is speeding on Cloverdale.



Lack of Marked Crosswalk

At the corner of 7th Ave. S. and Donovan there are no curb cuts, and there likely should be another marked crosswalk across Donovan on the west side of 7th as this is a school walk route.



Large Intersection

At the intersection at 7th Ave. S. and S. Trenton there are a number of problems. Children are advised by the principal to not cross it on the north and east sides because it has a very large curve with high speeds and poor visibility. An island or some other calming treatment would be helpful.

Follow-up

We ended back at the school and agreed that we would be continue to work on the ideas we had. The Neighborhood Health Advocacy Committee of the American Lung Association of Washington will meet monthly and members are interested in following these issues, and the Seattle Department of Transportation will work on many of these concerns.