**Pedestrian Safety Advisory Council**

## Meeting #27 Summary

## January 23, 2019, 10 AM – 2.30 PM

**Washington Traffic Safety Commission, 621 8th Ave., SE, Suite 409, Olympia, WA**

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| **Attending:** | Marc Anderson, Andrew Beagle, Brian Chandler, Charlotte Claybrooke, Aimee D’Avignon, Josh Diekmann, Mike Dornfeld, Eric Edwards, Tony Gomez, Will Hitchcock, Pam Pannkuk, Julia Reitan, Paul Taylor, Karen Wigen, Scott Waller. Heidi Keller, Facilitator. |

1. **Announcements and Updates**

National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) is conducting a pilot project to assess bicycle and pedestrian systems. WTSC volunteered to be part of the pilot. The assessment team will be in Washington March 27-29, 2019 and will attend part of the March 27 joint meeting of the PSAC and the BSAC. Members will receive a survey before the March meeting requesting work that you would like to highlight during the joint meeting. In an effort to encourage cooperation and collaboration, staff from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will also be invited to participate in the assessment.

Legislative Update:

* The Active Transportation Safety Advisory Council (ATSAC) Bill was approved by the Governor and has been assigned bill numbers in the House and Senate:

SB 5710 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5710&Year=2019&Initiative=false>

HB 1723 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1723&Initiative=false&Year=2019>

* Vulnerable user law – has been assigned bill numbers in the House and Senate:

SB 5723 - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5723&Year=2019>

HB 1966 - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1966&Chamber=House&Year=2019>

*(2/19 Update – The ATSAC bill was presented to both the Senate and House Transportation Committees on Monday, 2/18. There was a very positive reception by both committees. People testifying for the bill were: Shelly Baldwin and Pam Pannkuk, WTSC; Josh Diekman, City of Tacoma; Julia Reitan, Feet First; Alex Alston, WA Bikes; and, Vic Coleman, Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition. David Jones provided written testimony. The bill is scheduled for a vote by the committee tomorrow.*

*The Vulnerable user bill also was presented in the Senate on 2/18 and received a largely favorable reaction. Testifying for the bill were: Shelly Baldwin, WTSC; Jessica Gould, Olympia Resident; Julia Reitan, Feet First; Charlotte Claybrooke, Washington State Department of Transportation; Alex Alston, WA Bikes; and, Vic Coleman, Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition.)*

1. **2018 Annual Report**

Participants reviewed the 2018 annual report and decided that they would like to spend their time between now and June taking a deeper dive into issues. Some ideas for choosing issues:

* High priority
* Supported by data
* Actionable and lend themselves to citizen action
* Take advantage of revenue conversations occurring now in the Legislature

**General Comments on the report:**

* Participants were pleased with the look and communication value of the report. General feeling is that it does a good job of synthesizing and capturing the work of the Council.
* Good job driving home key points. It will help “get the word out.”
* Use of text boxes highlights key points and makes them more memorable.

**Questions/Suggestions:**

* How will this work when the two Councils are combined? Will it have the same impact when the two subjects are folded into one report? The end product is great and there is a lot of depth there. How will you continue resourcing that this year? When we combine with bicyclist safety council, will we need breakouts? How will we maintain if we do not pare down our focus? How will we support the depth and breadth?
* “Active Transportation Trips” chart on page 8 does not seem accurate; seems like it under-reports walking. Why are we talking about bikes in this report when we do not have good, reliable counts? Next time let’s use better examples, such as 30,000 transit boardings on Seattle’s Third Avenue every day.
* Let us start talking about “travel by foot.” Everybody walks but some of us are making necessary travel by foot.
* Impaired pedestrian fatalities are up and drunk driving is down. Are we looking at unintended consequences? Are there others that we could anticipate? Now the message needs to be: if you drink, have a plan for getting home.

**Things that stand out:**

* **Impairment.** We have got to step up to that. Is it a traffic death or an alcohol/drug death? It is both. We cannot duck this. Need to look more closely at the population that is marginalized.
* **Speed.** Appreciate the focus on speed and that WSDOT is continuing to look at the use of target speed. Speed reduction law is getting traction in King County. Six neighborhoods have implemented, and speed is coming down in 5 of the 6 neighborhoods.
* **The need for self-enforcing road design.** It cannot just be a sign, and we cannot write enough tickets to get people to slow down.
* **Hit and run drivers**: 21% seems an extremely high number of hit and runs. What is our culture around that? Maybe look at consequence – safety piece being more important than the consequence to driver.

**Looking ahead:**

* Need to change our focus and be more targeted.
* Example” Unsafe by Design. We have thousands of miles of unsafe pedestrian environments. The question is: how do we fix this? Pilot in some locations? Select a few of the worst roads in state and show what can be done, showcase them? There is talk in the Legislature right now about a transportation revenue package. We have an opportunity right now to quantify the funding needed to prevent these types of collisions. Hate to see us miss it.
* We still do not have data, or a way to present data, to explain usage and demand.
* Where is the role for citizen activists in pushing this forward? It is very technical.
* Maybe a next step is an expanded key leadership/media briefing about some of this. Seattle/King County got good response from a leadership summit, bringing city/county officials together to look at pedestrian data and potential solutions.
* Going forward we need to focus. We cannot just say everything is a problem. We need to make it more actionable in the world. Have to prioritize. Discuss in communities. Identify actions you can take.
* Let us do a deeper dive into some things. We also punted on some things.
* Last year was process of discovery. Looking at the data and say if we could tackle this issue, we could make a real difference. We are not ignoring these tier 2 & 3 issues but we might find areas that we could focus on to increase effectiveness.
* Prioritize for deeper dive and look for role of citizen advocates.
* Other issues to consider for a deeper dive:
* Equity
* Technology
* Increase in collisions simultaneous with increase in smart phone use
* High speed collisions

**Conclusion:**

Participants would like to identify 3 – 4 issues that will become their focus between now and June. They asked Heidi and Scott to draft criteria and provided the following guidance.

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| **Builds on concepts/findings of 2018 report** | **Crosscuts multiple groups and variables** | **Supports current policy actions** | **Is a leading contributing factor** | **Supported by evidence** | **Actionable with broad appeal**  |
|  |  |  | Issue presents in most crashes | Short-term & actionable | Immediate impact |
|  |  |  | Need: leading contributing factors | Efficacy – best evidence for decreasing… | Resources to implement now |
|  |  |  |  |  | Buy in from others |
|  |  |  |  |  | Geographic/data driven – geo representation |

**Action:**

* Council members are asked to send their thoughts on priority issues for a deeper dive between now and June 2019.
* Scott and Heidi will develop and send criteria and scoring grid for use in February 27 meeting.

**Next meetings:**

2/27/19, 10 am – 2:30 pm, WTSC, Olympia

3/27/19, 10 am – 3 pm, Joint Meeting with Cooper Jones Bicyclist Safety Advisory Council, WTSC, Olympia

4/24/19, 10 am – 2:30 pm, WTSC, Olympia

5/22/19, 10 am – 2:30 pm, WTSC, Olympia

6/26/19, 10 am – 2:30 pm, WTSC, Olympia