



School Traffic Safety Committee

March 15, 2024

To: Mayor Harrell
City Council

We are writing to express support for a physical restructuring of Aurora Avenue North that will make it safe for students and families to walk and roll to school. The Seattle Department of Transportation recently presented to us on design options for Aurora Avenue North. Please help SDOT take this opportunity to make Aurora part of our vibrant city rather than a barrier within it.

Students at B.F. Day and Daniel Bagley Elementary Schools must cross Aurora Ave N, as must middle schoolers at Hamilton and high school students at Lincoln. Over the last 5 years 22 people trying to go about their days have been killed in traffic collisions on Aurora Ave N. We can and need to make these crossings a non-event in a kindergartener's day, as opposed to a parent's nightmare that requires the whole family to restructure their lives to walk or roll this 200 feet.

While there are multiple opportunities for physical improvements along Aurora that will knit our communities together, we would particularly like to highlight that 41st St N needs an at-grade crossing with a traffic light. The present configuration is not ADA accessible and families can't get strollers or wheelchairs on the bridge, which itself is not seismically sound. 41st is a major crossing point for B.F. Day students. We've been asked by the B.F. Day principal for solutions and in this case, physical redesign is needed. A safe, pleasant, at grade crossing will re-unite a neighborhood with the happy add-on of making the commercial spaces along Aurora more accessible.

The Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee was created in 1975 to connect the mosaic of entities involved in creating and providing safe routes to school. The Committee includes representatives of public agencies and volunteer community members. This letter is on behalf of the volunteer members. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,
Margaret McCauley
Marilyn Firman
Mary Ellen Russell
Ryan Baum
Kelsey Rote
Noa Guter