



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 1

COUNCILMEMBER LISA HERBOLD

June 2, 2016

Scott Kubly, Director
Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

RE: Beach Drive Southwest

I am writing you about work I've been doing with residents living on Beach Drive Southwest.

Over the last few years, activities that contribute to a lack of pedestrian safety have increased on the section of Beach Drive Southwest running south from the Alki Point Lighthouse. Like the driving practices traditionally experienced on the business strip Alki Avenue Southwest, there has been a spill over into this residential neighborhood.

The area faces a variety of problems, of greatest concern, drag racing.

This section of Beach Drive Southwest is unusual in that there are no through streets from the lighthouse to 64th Avenue SW, and only one side street just south of Alki. Unfortunately, this makes the street attractive for drag racing at high speeds. I have included photos of skid marks on this quiet street as evidence of this practice, which is on-going and increasing in frequency.

One particular issue relevant to SDOT is speed control: speeding cars, in particular drag racing—which is challenging for the Seattle Police Department to enforce in real time. The public safety threat from drag racing may not fit with traditional transportation metrics of speed control, as the problem may be occasional and infrequent. However, it is fast, intense, and dangerous—especially in an area with heavy pedestrian and bicycle traffic, which increase significantly during the warm-weather months.

I ask that you consider a long-term solution to drag racing for this neighborhood, such as raised sidewalk, and/or permanent speed bump(s). Please work with the community to develop this solution. The information they have received to date has lacked clarity about their role, for instance do they need to propose a design? They understood that for NMF dollars (which they applied for last year) their application would have been more competitive had they done so. Now that they are pursuing other options for funding it is unclear when or if they are expected/permitted to provide input into the design for a project.

I met with residents from Beach Drive Southwest, and they told me they have applied for funding through the Neighborhood Parks and Street Fund. However, this process runs through the entire year, so even if the application is successful, it will not come in time to address the issues experienced by the neighborhood during this year's warm season.

I ask that you consider whatever traffic calming measures you can to address this in the short term as well.

Sincerely,

Lisa Herbold
Councilmember, District 1

CC: Captain Pierre Davis, Southwest Precinct
Sarah Potter
Barbara Richter