

Pedestrian Committee

Meeting on November 20, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

- Members in attendance: Robin Bonner (Vice Chair), Shannon Hasenfratz, Debby Galef, Maryann Quinn, Janet Stein, Jenine Turner-Trauring, Kevin Leckey
- Members not in attendance: Michael McGowan, Xander Mitchell, Sean Peirce, Logan Read
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (DOT), Emily Boyle (DPW)

Minutes

- Meeting summary (was not a formal meeting lacking quorum, so not formal minutes) from Nov 5 was approved
- Change to Joint Meeting minutes: one meeting minutes summary, approved by each transportation committee

Q&A: Meetings, announcements, and project updates

- New member: Shannon Hasenfratz from Harvard University Planning and Design
- Upcoming public meetings: [Outer Huron](#), [Rules of the Road Workshop](#), [McGrath Boulevard](#)
- Current Committee term ends with a final meeting scheduled for February 26, 2026. Application for the next two-year term (March 2026 through February 2028) open in January 2026. Continuing members can be reappointed by letting Nick/Quinn know they want to continue (but after 5 continuous terms you are ineligible)
- [Speed Hump Pilot Program](#) starting this fall
- [Linear Park Reconstruction Project](#) closed on October 27 for reconstruction
- [Quincy – Western Kirkland Safety Improvement Project](#) launched (will be discussed in further detail at the January 21, 2026, Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committees)
- Committee discussed pedestrian detours around construction and lack of signage, and police detail directing traffic/pedestrians:
 - No pedestrian-friendly signs for walking north along River past the Central Square Church. Please don't use standard construction detour signs for pedestrian detours. The City should use signs that are more pedestrian friendly.
 - Officer details along the Mass Ave Partial Construction Project are not helping with walking and biking safety.
 - Contractor blocking Mass Ave sidewalk in front of post office at Inman St intersection.

Discussion: Preparing for the Next Two-year Term

- How can we improve participation in the next term? There has been a trend of declining interest/participation unique to the Pedestrian Committee.

Comments from Committee members

- Chair and Vice Chair need roles, not sure what they're supposed to be doing. Roles are outlined in the bylaws, but members are not aware of bylaws.
- Committee has made suggestions, e.g. asked for missing crosswalks but nothing changed until months later if at all, so haven't felt like contributions have made a difference. A Committee member fell having not seen a curb and asked for paint but didn't get anywhere. There's a feeling of disillusionment. What does it take to fix an intersection for real?
 - Committee noted that it's hard to feel empowered telling career staff how to change projects. There needs to be a group project. Members agreed that they want to participate in, not manage, a group project.
- Walks were interesting but most people that go on walks are Committee members and partners (need more outreach). Members like the idea of events where they can participate. For example, the Recycling Committee has events that include member participation.
- Committee attrition has been worse lately
- Committee isn't aware of the bylaws. They are short—only a page and a half and is the same (with one change) as the Bicycle Committee. While the Chair has bylaw responsibilities, they were not made clear and as a result the Committee has been more staff led than member led.
- Committee members are uncertain how to contribute:
 - Are there specific tasks that we can do?
 - Can we identify places for daylighting? Divide up the city and do a survey of crosswalks, with follow up from the city for example?
 - Participation in or leading City events?
 - More project review? Members enjoy this role and find it productive.
- Can we come up with a project/group work that yields change?
 - For example, there's a new program on City Council order about intersection safety responding to high crash locations. Is there an opportunity for the Committee to get involved?
- With respect to Committee membership, it's not very publicized for how to join the Committee, and the Committee is not very representative of the city as a whole.
- There are lots of City meetings one can go to. Can going to those meetings and reporting back to the Committee count towards service? Can there be more formal awareness of that?
- Should we change the day/time of the regular meeting?
 - Joint meetings can be a better opportunity to give feedback but having a different day of the week that is difficult.
 - Vice Chair will distribute a poll to consider changing the time.
- Need more onboarding materials that clarify responsibilities, there are onboarding materials but members feel vague on this. Be clearer on required meeting attendance (including Joint Meetings) and importance of quorum.
- Potential ways to track work:
 - “Year-in-review,” quarterly goals, end-of-term accomplishments, etc.

- Committee would like to consider changing the by-laws to allow members to serve for longer (not cap the number of terms). If possible, the committee would like to put this to a vote in January
 - To formalize changes, they must be put on the agenda with 10-day notice and requires a two-thirds majority vote.
 - Nick will reach out to Law Department to determine viability for this bylaw change.
- Potential other task that Pedestrian Committee members can get involved in:
 - Bicycle Parking Inventory: this hasn't been done in 3-4 years. It is currently 25-30% done (thanks to interns from the mayor's youth program) but it didn't finish in 2025. Tenzin Choephel oversees this inventory. Nick will reach out to members to request their involvement, if desired, once the process is ready.

Feedback on communication from Committee members

- Used to have weekly - but retired that email based on feedback that it was too many emails
- There are some monthly emails. Could do better job of showing where to go for certain information.
- Project updates in advance are a good idea.

Upcoming meetings

- January 29, 2026
- February 26, 2026

Public comment

- None