



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

Seattle SAFER Streets Act

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TRANSPORTATION, WATERFRONT, AND SEATTLE CENTER COMMITTEE
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Overview of Prospective Legislative Package:

Seattle SAFER (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Equitable, Responsive) Streets Act

1. Draft Traffic Safety ORD
2. Draft Combine SDOT Position Responsibilities ORD
3. Draft Contractor Truck Side Guard Requirement ORD

Legislation 1: Draft Traffic Safety ORD

Draft proposes changes to various Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) provisions concerning traffic safety:

- Adopts SDOT's Vision Zero Action Plan as the City's guide to advance roadway safety goals
- Requests that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) return within 180 days feedback on SDOT's onramp and offramp design
- Incorporates references to Vision Zero and the Safe Systems Approach into SDOT's planning, operations, and maintenance bodies of work
- Incorporates references to the City's Race and Social Equity Index into the same bodies of work

Legislation 1: Draft Traffic Safety ORD

Proposed traffic safety changes continued:

- Clarifies the requirement of attention the needs of vulnerable users of the right of way
- Adds references to safety countermeasures (e.g., leading pedestrian intervals and no-turn-on-red restrictions)
- Clarifies dimensions of SDOT's data collection and the intended use of data that is collected

Legislation 1: Draft Traffic Safety ORD

Policy goals still under development:

- Requires that SDOT add intersection daylighting as a part of work it conducts at an intersection on a street with parking
- Requires SDOT to perform Vision Zero project reviews, with the ability to request design revision prior to each approval
- Requires the codification of a post-crash safety review standard

Legislation 2: Combine SDOT Position Responsibilities ORD

This bill would incorporate the responsibilities of the Chief Transportation Safety Officer into the codified duties of the City Traffic Engineer.

It would add two key areas of oversight for the City Traffic Engineer:

- Act as the primary administrative authority and executive coordinator for the City's Vision Zero initiative; and
- Review and provide expert administrative determination on civil tort claims and litigation related to roadway safety infrastructure.

Additionally, new Emergency Authority is proposed for the Traffic Engineer to:

- Direct and expedite safety improvements on the High-Injury Network, including requiring coordination across SDOT divisions and establishing binding priority protocols for rapid low-cost safety treatments; and
- Implement immediate, temporary, or pilot safety interventions (e.g. lane reductions, signal timing changes, street closures) to respond promptly to imminent risks.

Under Development: Contractor Truck Side Guard Requirement ORD

This bill would require all contractors using trucks to do City work to install side guards, safety barriers installed along the sides to prevent pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists from being run over or crushed in side-impact collisions.



Questions?