

KIRO TV, 10-15-09

Push For Tougher Laws In Fatal Bike/Pedestrian-Car Incidents

SEATTLE -- A group is pushing for tougher laws if a driver maims or kills a pedestrian or bicyclist.

Under the current state law, the driver in the incident can receive nothing more than a traffic ticket.

On Wednesday night, a traffic justice summit was held at Seattle's city hall by city officials and the Cascade Bicycle Club to craft what's called the vulnerable user bill, designed to protect pedestrians and cyclists from dangerous drivers.

Friends and family members of victims killed in incidents spoke about the manner in which their loved ones were killed.

The city of Seattle used to have a law that would allow prosecutors to file assault charges in some cases, but an appeals judge decided that the law had to be consistent statewide.

Wednesday's summit was part of a new movement to write a new bill that would give every city the opportunity to pass its own laws.

Officials hope to get the bill passed this legislative session.

State Department of Transportation records showed that 120 people were killed or maimed by drivers.

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