

Levy to Move Seattle Oversight Committee Meeting

[Levy Oversight Committee bylaws – adopted April 2017](#)
[Move Seattle Levy legislation, approved June 29, 2015](#)

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Co-chairs: Geri Poor, Kevin Werner

Location: Video Conference, in-person at Seattle City Hall - Room L280

Members Present: Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Tyler Blackwell, Alex Bejaran Estevez, Lisa Bogardus, Inga Manskopf, Jessica Nguyen, Kevin Werner, Dennis Gathard, Delaney Lind (Pedestrian Advisory Board), Geri Poor (Freight Advisory Board), Ashwin Bhumbra (Transit Advisory Board), Donna McBain Evans (Bike Advisory Board), City Budget Office Delegate Saroja Reddy

Members Absent: Clara Cantor, Samuel Ferrara, Councilmember Rob Saka

Guests: Francisca Stefan, Bill LaBorde, Meghan Shephard, Kris Castleman, Serena Lehman, Kalen Carney, Katie Olsen, Margo Iniguez Dawes, Joanna Hankamer, Anya Pintak (all SDOT), Elaine Ko (CM Rob Saka's representative), Marcelo S., Erica Barnett

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:01PM

Welcome and roll call

Katie O.: Conducted roll call for committee members and City staff.

Public Comment

Geri P.: Asked if anyone wanted to give public comment.

Chair's Amendment Memorandum

Elaine K.: The amendment is a consensus document to try to bring in a number of viewpoints from the committee and council members. CM Rob Saka is pretty happy with this memorandum. His theme adds onto the Mayor's theme about building on maintenance and basics, safety, accelerating economic growth, climate action and sustainability. Sidewalk investments and safe routes to school investments are doubled and investments are tripled for safety on public transit. July 2nd is when the select committee meet for final voting on all amendments and the full package. A full council vote is on July 9 and then it will go to the Mayor. The resolution will have more specific items like a financial task force.

Geri P.: Is the companion resolution online?

Elaine K.: The companion resolution isn't written yet. It should be ready by Friday.

Inga M.: Can you tell me about the metrics for transit passenger safety and what are the intended outcomes that define success?

Elaine K.: That was new and those are excellent questions. CM Saka heard there is concerns about public transit access due to safety concerns. It's a new add to the Levy in CM Saka's amendment. There will be discussions with Metro and we welcome input as it gets more defined.

Inga M.: An implementation review of Vision Zero is listed in the amendment. What's the CM Saka's plan for this?

Elaine K.: The CM has been frustrated, as well as other stakeholders, that we are not meeting the Vision Zero goals. I would like to get back to you about the CM's vision for this work.

Inga M.: Can you talk about the statement about exploring how the council approves funding for projects?

Elaine K.: The council wants to work closely with the LOC and SDOT on reporting. Attachment A doesn't have specific projects listed in some areas like new sidewalks.

Agenda Item #1: Q1 2024 Levy to Move Seattle Report

Serena L.: Provided and [overview of the Q1 2024 Report](#). We have completed a lot of work in Q1 including paving, signals, bridge repair, transit access, and more. We completed 14 safe routes to school projects, new protected bike lane miles on Eastlake Ave and we completed over 1,700 sidewalk repairs and made progress on many Neighborhood Street Fund projects. We started construction on the East Marginal Way project and have completed 10 paving spot repairs, a stairway repair on SW Hudson St. and planted over 300 trees. We continue to make construction progress on the RapidRide G Line and ITS improvements on Denny Way and East Marginal Way.

Francisca S.: I want to discuss where we are with spending. You can see that we are at a high level of spending in spite of some delays this quarter. We had the highest spending in bike safety, transportation operations, and multimodal improvements. Joanna is here to share details about advancing contractor delivered projects from the 90% design milestone to getting construction started.

Joanna H.: There are many steps to finalize a project plan and get it ready for contract advertisement. We go through quality reviews, secure permits and property agreements, and agreements with partner agencies like METRO, WSDOT, FTA and others. In some cases, it can take several months to work through details and get approvals from partner and permit agencies. In 2024, we updated our boiler plate specifications with WSDOT, which helps to streamline the final plan review process. During this period, we also reach out to the property

owners and stakeholders to share details about anticipated construction impacts. It takes about four months to start construction after the contract is advertised.

Francisca S.: We have seen a real uptick in project starts and the future spending will reflect that in Q2, Q3, and Q4. Invoice payment can lag behind the quarter close and that affects total spending in the quarter. We continue to be ambitious with delivery and spend planning to finish the Levy strong. We try to hold schedules but sometimes timelines do shift. In some cases, we pause projects to do some redesign work to incorporate more community input like 11th and 12th and 15th Ave NW paving projects.

Kevin W.: If the new Levy passed, how well is SDOT positioned to ramp up delivery levels?

Francisca S.: We are looking into staffing for a Levy renewal now. There are different types of Levy programs. Some spend down every month as they are more operations focused like tree trimming. In other areas, like crew delivered projects, you might see a slight dip because there is a design queue and then a construction queue. The contractor delivered projects have a longer lead time for with longer outreach and design phase schedules. There's capacity to receive new projects and move them forward. The tail end of the current Levy is contractor heavy. Bridge the Gap Levy was a third of the size of the Move Seattle Levy. The delta between the current levy and the Levy renewal is more related to inflation and the volume of work is not significantly higher.

Kevin W.: What work is happening on the MLK Jr. Safety project?

Serena L.: Sidewalk, protected bike lane, crossing and signal improvements are all part of the improvements that are under construction.

Rachel B.: What's the threshold for crew delivered projects?

Francisca S.: There's a state law financial threshold that requires a contractor when a capital project costs \$300K or more.

Donna E.: How did it get missed with the community and now have to redesign 15th Ave NW?

Francisca S.: We do have a complete streets process to help develop the scope of the project. In this case, the community expressed interest in revising this project as we got to later stages of design. Looking at it through the lens of amplifying safety work and the community's request, it was worth it to make some design changes.

Agenda Item #2: 2024 Levy to Move Seattle Delivery Plan

Serena L.: I'm going to share what SDOT is planning to deliver in 2024. We anticipate 27-40 blocks of new sidewalks, Georgetown to Downtown and Georgetown to South Park bike connections, beginning construction on 12 bridge seismic projects, 11 NSF project, implement

the near-term Accessible Mt Baker and up to 15 miles of neighborhood greenways. We have five safety corridor projects in progress and 9 to 12 safe routes to school projects planned. We are delivering 3 new signals and several miles of protected bike lanes. We have several paving projects in progress and we plan to start construction on RapidRide J Line and deliver 3 to 5 freight spot improvement projects. We remain on track to meet our 2015 targets on 27 of 30 programs. You'll continue to see construction and spending on contractor projects into 2025 and 2026.

Rachel B.: Do you have more to say about the interface between this levy and the next?

Serena L.: Most of the remaining Levy funds are tied up with contractors and consultants so much of the staff are available for the next Levy.

Kevin W.: Do you plan for the maintenance that follows building a project?

Serena L.: It depends on the project. We have plant establishment funds in projects that help fund the work post construction. The current proposal has funding for bike lane maintenance, which we didn't have on the current Levy.

Agenda item #3: Committee business

Kevin W.: Do committee members have thoughts on the Levy proposal that's on the table?

Inga M.: I'm confused about the meaning of the general funds support section on page 6? I think that means the current level of general funding will not be maintained.

Saroja R.: Right now, there's a floor to the general funding. I'm interpreting that they might put more in but maybe Elaine Ko can provide some insight on this question.

Alex B-E.: I wanted to highlight two areas our committee raised that aren't included in the current Levy proposal, alternative funding measures, and a broader approach to Vision Zero.

Kevin W.: The revenue task force could potentially address the alternative fund source issue.

Inga M.: I have the same concerns. The council needs more political cover for asking for more funds and you don't want to make that ask when you are proposing a new Levy.

Meghan S.: The task force is tasked with looking at the magnitude of some major needs like sidewalk and bridge work. The timeline is to complete their assessment work in 2027.

Saroja R.: The previous bond proposal did not address more than one year of dept service, and we didn't have projects ready to go.

Bike Board; Donna M.: The bike and transit board sent a letter to the MO and copied CM Saka on the need for a greater emphasis, which is missing on meeting the City's climate goals.

Ped Board; Delaney L.: The pedestrian board letter is very similar to the bike boards letter.

Freight Board; Geri P: We also wrote a letter asking for a doubling of freight spot improvements. We had a presentation on the WOSCA property on the west side of 1st Ave. It was used for staging of the SR 99 tunnel boring machine, Bertha.

Transit Board; Ashwin B: In addition to the letter with the bike board, we sent a letter to Sound Transit that I can share with the committee.

Kevin W.: No comments or objections from the committee on May minutes.

Rachel B.: I motion to approve the May minutes.

Ashwin B.: I second the motion.

Kevin W.: The May 2024 minutes are approved.

Adjourn: 6:42PM

Action items

Action items below capture tasks from previous meetings. Completed items will remain on action item tracker for one additional set of meeting minutes to capture “complete” status and will then be removed.

Action item	Meeting	Lead	Status	Deadline
What's the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) range we are trying to achieve?	March	SDOT	Working	TBD