

## 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, August 11, 2020 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

**Co-chairs:** Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Ron Posthuma

**Location:** Video Conference

**Members present on the phone:** Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Inga Manskopf, Joseph Laubach, Samuel Ferrara, Patrick Taylor, Kevin Werner, David Seater, Vicky Clarke, Hester Serebrin, Lisa Bogardus

**Members Absent:** Ron Posthuma, Alex Rouse, Todd Biesold, Ben Noble, Nick Paranjpye, Councilmember Alex Pederson

**Guests:** -Rachel McCaffrey, Lorelei Williams, Brian Sperry, David Conway, Matt Gemberling, - Joanna Valencia, Tracy Krawczyk, Scott Clarke, Garth Merrill, Anya Pintak, Eric Tweit, Maria Koengeter, Chris Eilerman, Michael Harold, Johnny Sithisack (all SDOT), Saroja Reddy, Aaron Blumenthal (Council Budget Office), Toby Thaler (aid to CM Alex Pedersen), Steven Sawyer and Riz Rizwi (Transportation Equity Work Group), Joanna Cullen, Heidi Groover (Seattle Times)

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER:** 5:00 PM

### **Agenda item #1: Welcome and introductions**

Rachel B: Conducted a roll call for committee members. Rachel M introduced City staff, and then guests introduced themselves by stating their name and organization if applicable.

### **Agenda item #2: Transportation Equity Workgroup**

Anya P: The [Transportation Equity Workgroup \(TEW\)](#) was created in 2017 to create an opportunity to co-create the city's transportation agenda with communities of color. The group coordinates closely with internal SDOT staff to better understand the transportation network, SDOT's work plans and how to ensure equitable outcomes for communities of color. The work group is tasked to provide recommendations on SDOT's transportation plans.

Steven S: As we do this equity work, we wanted to make sure that we represent communities of color. We have had retreats to learn about the aspects of the transportation system and topics to focus on as a group. The topics we selected are community engagement, transparency in decision making, mobility, infrastructure maintenance, land use, economic development, safety and transit access. Initially, we selected members and conducted an orientation to better understand SDOT's work processes. We held professional development summits in April and May of 2019. In the Fall of 2019, we discussed in detail each equity topic and created sub-topics to further explore.

Annya P: The TEW is continuing the co-development of the transportation agenda and working on short mid and long term strategies for implementation. In September and October, we are planning to release our equity agenda and our approach to implementing the identified equity strategies.

Inga M: Can we have someone on the TEW added to the LOC? What are your thoughts about what you will have on the final equity agenda? Will your group have a voice on upcoming service and project cuts?

Riz R: We are open to participating in the LOC but we have limited bandwidth. There are a few items that we are surer about and we are still working with SDOT to determine what is feasible.

Steven S: Safety is a big concern. We recommend best practices for lighting and sidewalks in communities that have been underrepresented. Other concerns include identifying other ways to address transit fare enforcement, other than ticketing.

Sam Z: The TEW has been really valuable to us to bring ideas to our interdepartmental team and highlighting opportunities.

Riz R: The group is aware of the revenue reductions that the City is facing and are taking that into consideration as we discuss strategies.

### **Agenda item #3: Revenue update**

Aaron B: Presented an [update on the revenue projections](#). Through August 1st City revenues are down \$440M (13.1%). If we compare this to the 2020 adopted budget, the general fund is down 22% through July. Our April projections were off and revenues are lower than those projections. We are now projecting a slower recovery. Parking, real estate excise tax and school zone cameras revenues have a big impact on SDOT's budget. These revenues are down significantly from 2019. We are not projecting a return to 2019 levels for the foreseeable future. For VLF \$20 we expect those revenues to continue as long as the ballot measure passes, we don't think we will have huge swings in revenues. We have really big challenges ahead for the City and SDOT. We are not expecting to collect any TNC revenues as ride share is down.

### **Agenda item #4: 2020 project pauses and budget**

Lorelei W: We are in the midst of continued change and I want to provide more context [on the 2020 projects that have been paused](#). We are doing our best to be transparent and share real time information with you all. In October we will be able to have an in-depth conversation about the budget. You all received an email in June regarding the 2020 projects that we paused due to the 2020 budget reductions. Does anyone have any questions about the project pauses? None. We have a cash flow issue in 2021, which is about \$20M short for what was planned in 2021. We are discussing the possibility an interfund loan. We will have more details in October.

Rachel B: Where does the interfund loan come from?

Lorelei W: The city has the ability to deal with the entirety of the city's cash flow by loaning money to SDOT.

Lorelei W: Shared an [update on the Bridge Seismic Program](#). Project definition reports are developed for each bridge to analyze the structure and identify recommended improvements. We were planning to scale the improvements to each bridge to fit the budget but now with the reduced budget we may have to adjust the scope of work further.

#### **Agenda item #5: Madison and Roosevelt Transit-Plus Multimodal Corridor updates**

Maria K: Shared an [update on the Transit and Multimodal Corridors Program](#). After a year of working with the FTA on the Madison project we have received the draft readiness report from FTA's consultant. We are in the process of finishing the last few items to receive the FTA grant. For the Roosevelt project we anticipate a delay in the NEPA timeline due to budget reductions. The Delridge project is in construction. Routes 40 and 44 and continuing to move ahead as well.

#### **Agenda item #6: Staff Resource Priorities/Constraints**

Lorelei W: The West Seattle High Bridge (WSHB) and COVID-19 have had significant impacts on our crew capacity in terms of continuing to deliver levy projects.

David S: I am frustrated that City crews were building concrete barriers around the Seattle Police Department East Precinct building. I have several questions: How was that work funded? How was the decision made to use SDOT resources? How long should we expect the sidewalks to remain closed around the precinct building and without a detour route?

Sam Z: We have been called on to help on the protests in many ways with a goal of de-escalating the tension following the George Floyd killing. This hasn't affected our other delivery. Beyond the impacts from protests response, we continue to have large numbers of crew staff staying home and not working they are high risk for COVID-19.

#### **Agenda item #7: Levy prioritization process**

Tracy K: Presented an [update on the levy prioritization assessment](#). We have been trying to respond to sudden changes in revenue forecasts and therefore had to submit draft budget proposals for 2021. We are proceeding with our assessment to validate project pauses or modify through budget actions next year. The Mayor submits her budget to Council in late September for review and comment and then the budget is adopted in late November. In October we will share with you the Mayor's proposed budget. In December we will share with you the results of the prioritization assessment. One of the concerns of the LOC was consistency in prioritization methods used by the levy programs. I want to highlight three different programs as they each use a different prioritization approach for good reasons. The Vision Zero, Bicycle Master Plan, and Transit Spot Improvement programs use a range of qualitative and quantitative prioritization methods due to the different purposes and desired outcomes of the programs. Because of this, it's difficult to have a separate equity score for every remaining project in the levy. However, we have identified a qualitative approach to better understand how we are addressing equity for remaining levy work. We plan to use the qualitative assessment factors we have developed with the LOC when a program does not have a prioritization approach that incorporates equity. Our qualitative equity factors include both geographic location as well as identifying which equity

communities are benefitted by the project. In addition, we are looking at the other qualitative factors developed with the LOC: safety, project status, grant or partnership funding, urban village focus, and climate change.

Joe L: You mentioned levy revenues from property taxes are stable but levy deliverables need to be reduced. Is that correct?

Tracy K: Yes, when the levy was approved, we had an assumptions of approximately \$560M in leverage funding plus local funds.

Joe L: This is where transparency need to be very clear. The City and SDOT runs a risk of losing taxpayer confidence.

Sam Z: In the Q2 levy report we did start to capture the decline in expected revenues.

Lorelei W: The total original levy budget was \$1.8B. \$930M in levy funds. Approximately \$560M in leverage assumed and the balance in local funds.

Rachel B: It was clear that the levy program was highly leveraged when it passed.

Hester S: What populations do you count in equity communities?

Tracy K: I will follow up and send out the information.

Patrick T: I am concerned that the WSHB will affect other levy work. How is s the WSHB funding affecting other levy funding.

Sam Z: There's funding and people to do near-term work. It has necessitated the need to reroute traffic and multimodal improvements. Some are aligned with levy deliverables.

Lorelei W: There's only so much local funds in the city. We don't take levy funds for something like this as the levy funds need to be allocated to levy work.

#### **Agenda item #8: Committee business**

Inga M: Moved to approve the June 2, 2020 minutes as drafted.

Joe L: Seconded the motion.

Rachel B: Alright, the minutes are approved.

#### **Agenda item #9: Q2 2020 Levy Progress Report**

Rachel B: Are there any questions on the Q2 report?

David S: The school zone camera revenues are down. What's the outlook on completing the 2020 SRTS projects this year?

Lorelei W: We hope to deliver all projects planned for completion in 2020 that were not paused. Crew built projects are at a higher risk of not getting completed due to limited crew capacity. We turned the cameras off earlier this year and they may be back on now but I'm not sure.

David S: Can we turn the cameras back on?

Lorelei W: I'm not sure. We'll check back on the details and get back to you. Both about turning on and collecting or not.

**Public Comment:**

Rachel M: Press star 6 to unmute if you have a comment.

No comments.

**Budget follow-up discussion:**

Lorelei : If the LOC wanted you could provide input to the Mayor on the 2021-2022 budget by August.

Inga M: Last year we regretted not sending input on the budget. I don't want to miss the opportunity this year but I'm not sure what we can ask for given the magnitude of reduced revenues. We could respond to the Mayor's September budget proposal.

Aaron B: We try to wrap up internal budget discussions by mid-August. We prefer to have committee's input by late June.

Rachel B: Let's add that to the agenda for the next meeting.

**Adjourn: 6:54 PM**

**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
Status of school zone camaras	August 11, 2020	SDOT	Response sent to LOC on 8/17	Completed
Demographic data used in identifying equity populations	August 11, 2020	SDOT	Response sent to LOC on 8/17	Completed