Neighborhood Street Fund Program Update & 2022-2024 Cycle Project Selection

Levy Oversight Committee
Agenda

1. NSF Program Update
2. 2022-2024 NSF Program Cycle
   • Review modified approach for this cycle
   • Share project candidates
   • Provide review instructions for LOC members
   • Return in November for final project selection by LOC
NSF Program Update
The Neighborhood Street Fund (NSF) is a City program that enables the community to propose and help prioritize transportation-related projects that are then built by SDOT.
NSF funding cycles

• The Levy to Move Seattle provides $24M for three, 3-year program cycles: 2016-2018, 2019-2021, 2022-2024
• Project selection, design, and construction typically occurs within each 3-year cycle
• The prioritization process is community-driven, with final project section by the Levy Oversight Committee (LOC)

Typical NSF cycle:

- **Year 1**: Collect project ideas from community
- **Year 2**: Community prioritizes projects, Final project selection by LOC
- **Year 3**: Design, Construction
Project eligibility

• Cost estimate of $100k and $1M
• Located in City right-of-way
• Aligns with City design standards

Past projects include:
• New sidewalks and sidewalk repair
• New pedestrian crossings
• Bike safety improvements
• Traffic calming
• Stormwater improvements
• Public art and festival streets
Project selection process

1. Submitting project ideas
   • Any individual or organization can submit an idea
   • SDOT reviews all applications for eligibility

2. Two-phase community prioritization
   • Initial community prioritization of all eligible projects
   • Followed by community voting on top prioritized projects from each Council District

3. Final project selection by LOC
   • Top community-voted projects advance to LOC for final project selection
Equitable improvements

In response to LOC feedback, we improved the community process to be more equitable:

• In 2019, we partnered with the Department of Neighborhoods on outreach focused in historically underserved communities

• Attended in-person, in-language community events to collect project ideas and help community prioritize projects

• LOC selected 15 projects with the majority in historically underserved areas, and advanced $2M to fund additional improvements

Equitable process improvements for the 2019-2021 cycle resulted in record community participation
Levy deliverable status

As of September 2022:
• Levy deliverable goal: 20-35 projects
• Complete: 19 projects
• Remaining: 8 projects + Cycle 3 projects TBD

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*Delayed to Q4 2022 due to coordination with private development
**3 projects in construction with delivery by Q4 2022; 4 projects now planned for delivery in 2022-2023 due to various factors: design revisions, coordination with other projects, and delays due to concrete delivery strike
Little Brook Sidewalks
Recently completed
New sidewalks connecting to a neighborhood park
Recently completed

NE 125th St Pedestrian Safety Enhancements

New pedestrian crossing to community center and library
North Seattle School Crossing Safety Enhancements
Community crosswalk connections to four schools
Recently completed
NE 65th St Pedestrian Safety Enhancements

Three new pedestrian crossings connecting commercial areas and bus stops

Recently completed
Denny-Stewart-Yale Safety Enhancements

Pedestrian safety enhancements, new turn lanes, and improved vehicle access to I-5

Recently completed
Beacon Ave S Safety Enhancements

Pedestrian safety enhancements and new pedestrian crossing at two intersections

Recently completed
Delridge Neighborhood Greenway Safe Connections

Recently completed

New protected bike lane and improved bike connection to the West Seattle Bridge Trail.
Recently completed

SW Barton St Pedestrian Safety Enhancements
New pedestrian crossing to commercial area and bus stops
Program challenges and opportunities

Equitable outreach
• Prioritize outreach in historically underserved communities during the application & voting process

Project candidate scoping
• Build flexibility into early scoping, as some concepts and costs may need to be adjusted during design

Unselected projects
• Always more ideas than available funding; we work to find opportunities to build unselected projects that are still community priorities

This new walkway on Sylvan Way SW was a previously unselected NSF project delivered as part of the Reconnect West Seattle program
Looking ahead

• NSF provides space for community ideas that may not otherwise be prioritized
• Important to build on equitable process improvements and ensure the program serves historically underserved communities

"Aurora Bright Dawn" artwork on Oak Tree Village Pedestrian Bridge, 2016-2018 NSF project
2022-2024 NSF Cycle Project Selection
Changes to 2022-2024 cycle

Modified process that leverages equitable outreach from previous cycle:
• We reconsidered the large pool of unselected applications submitted for 2019-2021 cycle
• Focused on projects located in geographic equity areas
• No new applications considered, no new community prioritization process

Schedule:

Unselected 2019-2021 projects → Reviewed unselected projects in geographic equity areas, no new applications or community voting → Project selection by LOC → Design → Construction

LOC briefed on this modified process in August 2021
Changes to 2022-2024 cycle

Geographic Equity Areas:

- Include areas of highest need based on:
  - City’s Race and Social Equity Index
  - Displacement Risk Index
  - COVID-19 cases reported by King County
- 211 unselected projects from last cycle
- 58 are in geographic equity areas and served as the candidate pool for this cycle
Initial project candidate review by SDOT

We reviewed 58 project candidates for current eligibility:
• 15 projects already completed or planned for delivery by other SDOT programs
• 26 projects not recommended to advance due to high cost, limited right-of-way, or lower community priority from 2019 voting
• 17 projects that had higher community priority and met eligibility requirements to advance to LOC for consideration and final selection

For the 17 final project candidates, we:
• Met with the original applicants to confirm interest and discuss scope changes
• Developed concepts and planning-level cost estimates to help inform project selection
Project candidates

• 17 projects distributed across equity areas
• Proposed improvements include:
  • New pedestrian crossings
  • Sidewalks and walkways
  • Stormwater improvements
  • Bike safety improvements
  • Other safety improvements
• Project costs range from $125k to $800k
• All 17 projects total $7.65M
• $4M available this cycle to fund 7-11 projects
Review instructions for LOC members

Ask of LOC members:
• Review project candidates and make final project selection at your November meeting

Schedule:
• September 6: Receive project candidate packet and instructions for reviewing
• By October 25: Review projects on your own and rank the projects online (link emailed)
• November 1: Review preliminary ranking results, discuss, and formally vote on a final package of projects that fit into the available budget of $4M
Packet includes:

- Program overview
- Review instructions
- Project candidate map
- Project candidate summaries:
  - Location
  - Cost estimate
  - Project description, risks, and other considerations
  - Additional context: community votes, equity need, and safety need

Projects in packet are listed from north to south.
Preliminary online ranking

- Link emailed to LOC members
- Enter name and email for tracking purposes*
- Rank projects from most preferred to least preferred
- Complete online ranking by **October 25**
- We will share the preliminary results a few days before your November 1 meeting

*Results will be anonymous and aggregated
Next Steps

LOC members:
• Review project candidates
• Submit preliminary votes online by October 25
• Be prepared to discuss and vote on final package of projects at your November 1 meeting

Staff will be on hand to answer any questions to help support your review:
• Simon Blenski, NSF Program Manager
• nsf@seattle.gov or 206-741-2648