



# NEIGHBORHOOD STREET FUND

## Frequently asked questions

### What is the Neighborhood Street Fund?

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 the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT).

### Who can apply?

Everyone can apply! Residents, businesses, community groups, and non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply.

### What types of projects are considered?

Any transportation-related improvement in the city's public right-of-way with an anticipated cost between \$100,000 and \$1 Million is eligible for consideration.

Projects can fall into various categories such as: art, community placemaking, and safety improvements.

Past projects have included sidewalk repair, pedestrian lighting, bike safety improvements, or festival streets. They can all be reviewed on our website: [www.seattle.gov/nsf](http://www.seattle.gov/nsf)

### How are projects funded?

Funding comes from the 2015 voter-approved, nine-year Levy to Move Seattle, which will enhance safety for all travelers, maintain streets and bridges, and invest in reliable, affordable travel options for a growing city. The levy includes \$24 Million to continue the Neighborhood Street Fund program over the nine years with approximately \$8 Million for this three-year cycle.

### What is the timeline from start to finish?

The NSF program runs on 3-year cycles to select, design, and build projects. The application phase for new projects will open October 2018.



### QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, additional translated material, or need help with accessing the application, please contact us at [nsf@seattle.gov](mailto:nsf@seattle.gov) or 206-733-9361.



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### How can I apply?

The application is meant to take about 15 minutes to fill out and requires that the applicant note a specific location with a specific issue, and a proposed solution.

Applicants are required to have an email address for online applications so that SDOT staff may contact them. Applicants who do not have online access, or who need language assistance can contact SDOT for help at [NSF@seattle.gov](mailto:NSF@seattle.gov) or by phone at 206-733-9361. There will also be several drop-in sessions for SDOT staff to assist with applications.

### What makes a successful project?

Please review our Dos and Don'ts document (attached and available on the website) for hints about how to include the most relevant information.

### What are examples of past projects?

#### S Orca St— New sidewalk and planting strip



Before



After

#### Georgetown Festival Street— Pedestrian improvements



Before



After

#### Maynard Avenue S — Planting strip, curb bulbs and landscaping



Before



After

#### Fairview Avenue N— Intersection redesign, landscaping, and public art



Before



After

### Are there limits to the type of transportation projects that can be considered?

Really expensive projects and ones that require extensive permitting are not good candidates. Projects must be located on city streets or sidewalks. Projects that change the number of lanes on a roadway or propose a change to traffic control (stop signs or traffic signals) must be evaluated by SDOT for feasibility.

During conceptual design, SDOT may also refine the scope of the proposed project in consultation with the applicant. For example, an original project might assume building sidewalks on both sides of the street while the project purpose may be met with a sidewalk on only one side of the street, reducing the project cost and making funding more likely.

### I applied in a previous year. Do I need to apply again?

Yes. Previously submitted projects are eligible, but you'll need to submit a new project application.

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### Am I required to advocate for my project in the community?

No. However, projects are scored through a community prioritization process based on the wants and needs of the neighborhoods. With this in mind, building support for your application is a good idea and can involve talking with neighbors, presenting at community meetings, and brainstorming with local advocate groups.

### What has changed with the NSF process since last cycle?

The Council Districts will have a less active role this cycle and will no longer initially vet projects for consideration. To be more transparent and equitable, our project prioritization process will begin in the communities using a scoring method based on community need and wants. From here, SDOT will take feasible projects from each council district area and work with applicants to develop concept designs that will be voted on by the public. The public will then vote on favorite projects per council district, from which approximately 5 to 10 projects will be selected with the assistance of the Move Seattle Levy Oversight Committee. This selection will emphasize equitable distribution of projects and funding. Projects will be designed and built in 2020 and 2021. This year you can apply both online and in-person! There will be more outreach done where SDOT staff will be available to assist you in applying for a project to increase community involvement.

### How can I get involved?

- Show up at our outreach events
- Gather neighborhood support for a project and apply
- Show up at your community meeting and prioritize projects that matter to you
- Vote for the final projects to be selected and built

### How can I track projects?

Visit the NSF website at: [www.seattle.gov/nsf](http://www.seattle.gov/nsf) to explore what projects are being considered in your area.

If you have applied, we'll inform you if your project has been identified as a community priority.

### How will the Oversight Committee approve these projects?

The Move Seattle Levy Oversight committee will review the communities' top voted projects with an emphasis on equitable distribution of funding and project location across the city.

### How many projects will be funded in this cycle?

The number of distinct projects funded in this NSF cycle depends on how expensive each project is. In past years, 10 to 12 projects have been funded per cycle. The 2019 application period is the second of three funding cycles through the 9-year Levy to Move Seattle.

### How are projects selected?

Projects will be selected through community prioritization and voting. Dates for community meetings where this will happen and when online voting will open have not been determined, but announcements will be made after the application phase closes at the end of 2018.

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### Do I need to have a conceptual design for my project?

The only information needed for a complete application is a location and a problem statement. However, communities may prefer projects with more information or a conceptual design. Similarly, letters of support for your project are not required, but if available, can demonstrate broader community support.

If you want to propose a solution that addresses your concerns at a location, SDOT's Safe Routes to School program recently published a [toolkit](#) that explains many of the standard improvements we build in neighborhoods.

### How do I know how much my project will cost?

Until a project is fully designed and built, it's difficult to know how much it will cost, but here are a few benchmarks that might be helpful in estimating costs while at this early planning stage. Please note that these costs include design, construction, and all the costs associated with overseeing the project.

- \$10,000 - \$12,000 per linear feet of stairway, including handrail
- \$10,000 - \$20,000 per marked crosswalk
- \$15,000 - \$25,000 per ADA compliant curb ramp
- \$60,000 - \$75,000 per curb bulb (when a curb is extended into the street)
- \$200,000 - \$350,000 per new traffic signal
- \$350,000 - \$500,000 per block of new sidewalk (includes curb, gutter and landscaping)

In general, the following projects will cost less than \$100,000 and are more appropriate for funding through the Your Voice Your Choice Program (YVYC):

- Fewer than four new curb ramps
- Single curb bulb
- Small sidewalk or trail repair projects

Learn more about YVYC: [www.seattle.gov/yvyc](http://www.seattle.gov/yvyc)

### I submitted my application, what's next?

You can expect to hear from us in January during the Community Sorting and Prioritization phase, where all eligible projects will be presented to the community for scoring based on local wants and needs. We expect to have a pool of about 140 projects prioritized by the community. We'll develop simple design concepts for these projects, and in spring 2019, we'll present these concepts to the community for a second opportunity to give feedback. We expect the community to vote on approximately 35 projects (5 from each district). After that, with the help of SDOT committee review, we'll choose 5-10 projects to build.

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