

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, November 7, 2023 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Co-chairs: Inga Manskopf, Kevin Werner

Location: Video Conference, in-person at City Hall

Members Present: Inga Manskopf, Sam Ferrara, Geri Poor (Freight Board), Jessica Nguyen, Alex Bejarán Estévez, Clara Cantor, Saroja Reddy (City Budget Office), Natasha Riveron (Pedestrian Board), Donna McBain Evans (Bike Board), Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Dennis Gathard, Tyler Blackwell, Lisa Bogardus

Members Absent: Councilmember Alex Pedersen (City Council), Kevin Werner

Guests: Chad Allen, Chris Godwin, Bill LaBorde, Francisca Stefan, Margo Iñiguez Dawes, Kris Castleman, Serena Lehman, Kalen Carney, Katie Olsen, Brian Sperry, Josen Ramandeeep, Emily Reardon (all SDOT), Detra Segar, Zachary Van Brunt, Ryan Packer (The Urbanist), Michelle Chang

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:02 PM

Welcome and roll call

Inga M.: Conducted roll call for committee members.

Katie O.: Conducted roll call for City staff.

Public Comment

Inga M.: Asked if anyone wanted to give public comment. No public comment.

Agenda item #1: Revenue Resources

Chris G.: Provided an [overview of revenue sources](#) that SDOT uses to fund SDOT's work. We are considering all the work we have to do now and in the future to address transportation uses and needs. We are funded by many different sources with various restrictions. The Move Seattle Levy is only one revenue stream that we use and it does not provide enough funding for all SDOT's work. In order to fund all our work we often have to piece together a variety of fund sources. Grants, sales tax, property tax levies, and bonds are all sources used to fund SDOT's work. SDOT doesn't use impact fees, tax increment financing, business improvement districts, and private funding sources for transportation work.

Rachel B.: Can you talk about the bridge and transportation asset management plans and schedules?

Chris G.: Chad will be speaking next and can address the Transportation Asset Management Plan schedule. We anticipate the bridge strategic asset management plan will be done sometime next year. From a funding plan standpoint, we are taking the needs that are being identified in those planning efforts to help identify future funding needs.

Chad A.: The Transportation Asset Management Plan is scheduled to be published at the end of Q1 2024.

Dennis G.: How do you handle emergency projects like the West Seattle Bridge repair?

Chris G.: We did secure some bonds and a variety of other fund sources for the West Seattle Bridge repair work and the reconnect West Seattle work.

Tyler B.: It's alarming that many of the inputs to the Funding Plan will not be completed in time for the next funding plan.

Francisca S.: Chris Godwin alluded to the fact that we have much of the necessary information to make informed decisions about the future funding plan in advance of fully completing these plans.

Dennis G.: How do the limits on bonding work?

Chris G.: Yes, there are limits on bonding. That's something that the City Budget Office would advise on. Because bonds are voter approved they have a different set of limitations beyond the city dept capacity.

Sam F.: If there was a shift for more bonds, has that been done at the scale of this current levy?

Chris G.: You need project(s) to back any proposal to use bonds. Creditors want to have an asset that can back the bond. Bonding provides funds up front where a levy provides the funds over a period of time. In the late 60s or early 70s the city had the forward thrust bond to build the Kingdome and several parks in the City.

Saroja R.: Bonds are a 60% vote. A levy is a 50% vote.

Geri P.: Do you get any fare box revenues?

Chris G.: We do get some from fare revenue from the street cars but not from Metro bus service.

Tyler B.: Can you provide the data behind the chart shown?

Dennis G.: What about tolls?

Chris G.: The City doesn't have any toll infrastructure and I'm not aware of any other cities that have used tolling.

Geri P.: The Durkan administration had proposed tolling.

Bill L.: That was only a concept. We would need public approval to implement tolling.

Agenda item #2: SDOT Principles of Asset Management

Chad A.: Provided an [overview of asset management](#) and the development of SDOT's Transportation Asset Management Plan. SDOT is responsible for maintaining \$40B in assets. Asset management helps us make the right investment at the right time. Spending \$1 to preserve an asset can save \$6 to \$10 in rehabilitation or replacement costs. The Transportation Asset Management Plan will inform planning and funding, as well as data driven decision making. We have seven high value assets that we will be focusing on in the Transportation Asset Management Plan. The Transportation Asset Management Plan includes an equity commitment, goals and objectives, asset data management, risk management, revenue and financial overview, and lifecycle planning. The Transportation Asset Management Plan will enable us to be more proactive and less reactive, help us make data driven, risk and performance based decisions.

Sam F.: Does a voter approved levy make sense to fund asset management?

Chad A.: We have been having conversations about how best to fund asset management.

Rachel B.: How do you put together an asset management plan?

Chad A.: This keeps many of our staff up at night because we haven't had enough money to do what's needed to maintain our assets. This plan will help us make better decisions about how to use the resources we do have.

Clara C.: Can you speak about sidewalk maintenance? What percentage of sidewalks is the city's responsibility?

Chad A.: We do a lot of sidewalk maintenance and there is an ordinance that sidewalk maintenance is a responsibility of private property owners. I can get you more information on that.

Tyler B.: What amount of technical detail can we expect in the Transportation Asset Management Plan?

Chad A.: You'll see a medium level of technical detail in the Transportation Asset Management Plan.

Tyler B.: Will there be criteria for measuring the next best choice?

Chad A.: Yes, the scenarios represent the next best choice from the highest scenario.

Tyler B.: Are other variables considered besides cost?

Chad A.: Things like accessibility, mobility and safety will be considered at the program prioritization level.

Gerri P.: How do we get to what's funded from the Transportation Asset Management Plan?

Chad A.: The Transportation Asset Management Plan is not recommending projects. The Transportation Asset Management Plan will inform and guide how we make decisions on the best investments.

Agenda item 3: Committee Business

LOC Recommendation

Inga M.: Summarized the programs to highlight in the recommendations letter. Any others?

Lisa B.: The majority of these projects were done under the local hire program so we could highlight the additional equity benefits of this program.

Inga M.: Are we all in agreement to vote for another levy with conditions?

None opposed.

Dennis G.: I motion we vote on the need for another levy.

Rachel B.: I second the motion.

Inga M.: All are in favor, none opposed. We all agree that there is a need for another levy to fund continuing work.

Subcommittees and modal board reports

Natasha R. (Pedestrian board): No major updates.

Gerri P. (Freight board): We recently finalized our letter about the Seattle Transportation Plan.

Donna E. (Bike board): We recently finalized our letter about the Seattle Transportation Plan.

Meeting Minutes for Approval

Inga M.: I motion to approve the minutes September minutes?

Sam F.: I second the motion.

Inga M.: I motion to approve the October minutes?

Geri P.: I second the motion.

Inga M.: No opposed; so the September and October minutes are approved.

Executive Team nominations

Inga M.: Any nominations to be co-chair to replace my seat?

Geri P.: I am willing to move to the co-chair position.

Rachel B.: I'd like to nominate Lisa for vice chair.

Sam F.: I second the motion.

Inga M.: I nominate Geri to be co-chair for 2024.

Sam F.: I second the motion.

Inga M.: Geri and Lisa are approved for the new positions.

Adjourn: 7:00 PM

Action items

Action items below capture tasks from this meeting.

Action item	Meeting	Lead	Status	Deadline
Share the data behind the chart on slide 5 .	Nov. 2023	SDOT	Working	Dec. 2023
Share some of the ways new funding sources would be approved.	Nov. 2023	SDOT	Working	Dec. 2023
Share more information about privately owned vs. City-owned sidewalks.	Nov. 2023	SDOT	Working	Dec. 2023