

Seattle Draft Transportation Levy Proposal



April 2024

Draft Transportation Levy Renewal Proposal

Summary

- City of Seattle is proposing a **\$1.35 billion property tax levy over 8 years** to build a safe, reliable, and connected Seattle that keeps our growing city moving
- Would renew current Levy to Move Seattle
- Would pave and modernize streets, repair bridges, build sidewalks & safer streets, improve connections to light rail stations & transit, build safe walking, rolling, & biking routes

Next Steps

- Public launch of draft proposal is today, April 4
- Inviting public input to the draft through April 26
- Will inform the Mayor's final proposal to City Council in May

Purpose

- Levies are a critical revenue source for transportation and current one is expiring on December 31, 2024
- City's current transportation levy represents roughly 30% of SDOT budget for core services and new projects

Cost

- Current levy: 9-year, \$930 million Levy to Move Seattle passed in 2015 costs the owner of a median-assessed Seattle house (\$866,000) - about \$24 per month
- Proposed levy renewal: Would cost median homeowner about \$36 per month - \$12 more

Since 2006, transportation levies have helped SDOT deliver:



345

Blocks of
sidewalks



442

Crossing
improvements



261

Safe Routes to
School projects



3,019

Curb ramp
upgrades



57

New
signals



332

Transit spot
improvements



509

Lane miles
of paving



4,378

Bike
spaces



57

Miles of neighborhood
greenways



197

Miles of
bike lanes



23

Bridge
reinforcements



9,335

Trees
planted



Inputs to the Draft Transportation Levy Proposal



Safety Commitment



Asset Management Strategy



Community input



Affordability

Draft Transportation Levy

Cost to Taxpayers

For median home with a tax-assessed value of \$866,000:	Levy to Move Seattle	Draft Levy Proposal
Monthly Cost	\$24	\$36
Annual Cost	\$287	\$435

Proposal Mill Rate
Approximately \$0.56 per \$1,000 in assessed value

Levy Proposal Investments - Examples

- Repave and modernize at least 15 of our busiest streets, improving them for people to walk, roll, bike, and take transit
- Upgrade mechanical systems to keep 3 moveable Ship Canal bridges working reliably
- Launch a preventative bridge maintenance program to keep bridges in a state of good repair
- Support construction of 250 blocks of new sidewalks and repair 34,000 sidewalk defects
- Expand the Neighborhood Street Fund program to build projects requested by communities
- Build 160 projects that improve transit reliability, equity, and safety
- Upgrade 30% of existing protected bike lanes with better bike barriers
- Install more pedestrian lighting in neighborhood business districts and at transit stops



Vision Zero & School Safety

CONTEXT

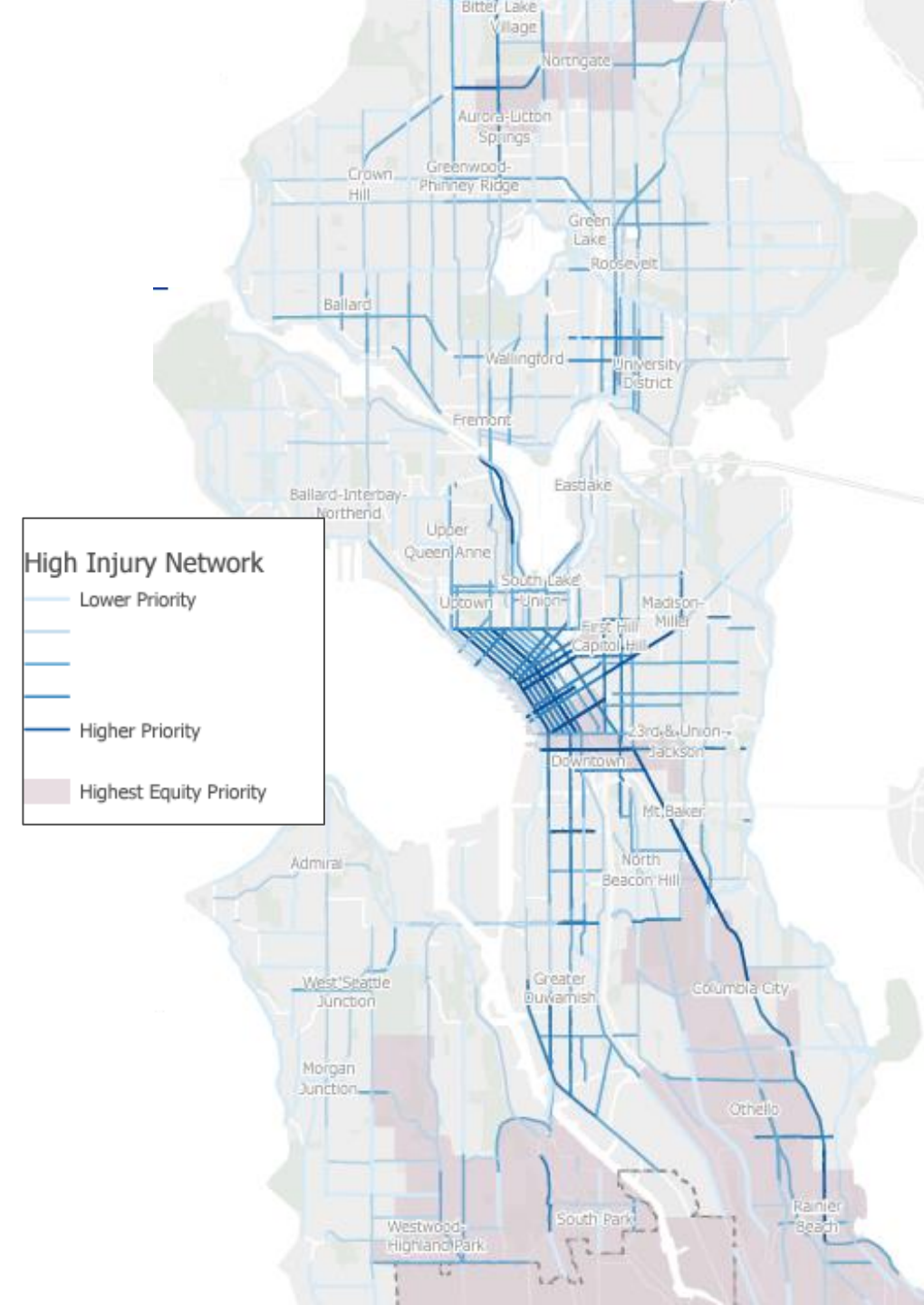
- Vision Zero goals to end deaths and serious injuries on city streets
- Over 10,000 crashes per year
- ~28 fatalities and 180 people seriously injured each year
- Vulnerable travelers account for 53% of people killed

PROPOSAL

- Invest \$107M for safety upgrades to reduce traffic collisions, severe injuries, and fatalities
- Increase Vision Zero funding by 150%
- Leverage state grant to help modernize Aurora Avenue N

OUTCOMES

- Substantial safety projects for at least 40 high-collision locations
- Leading pedestrian intervals at 280 intersections
- Safety projects on 12 corridors on the High Injury Network
- Traffic calming treatments on 50 corridors



Major Street Maintenance

CONTEXT

- Streets carry over 900,000 vehicle trips daily, which damages pavement over time especially on the busiest streets
- When we repave streets, we can make other improvements for all travelers in the corridor

PROPOSAL

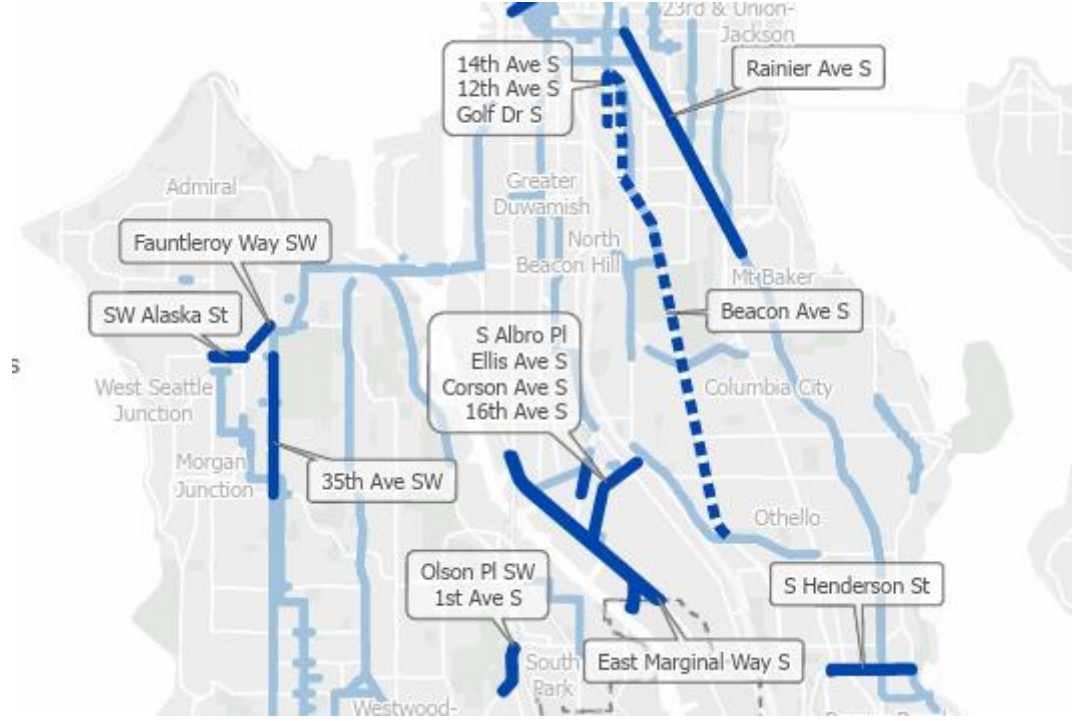
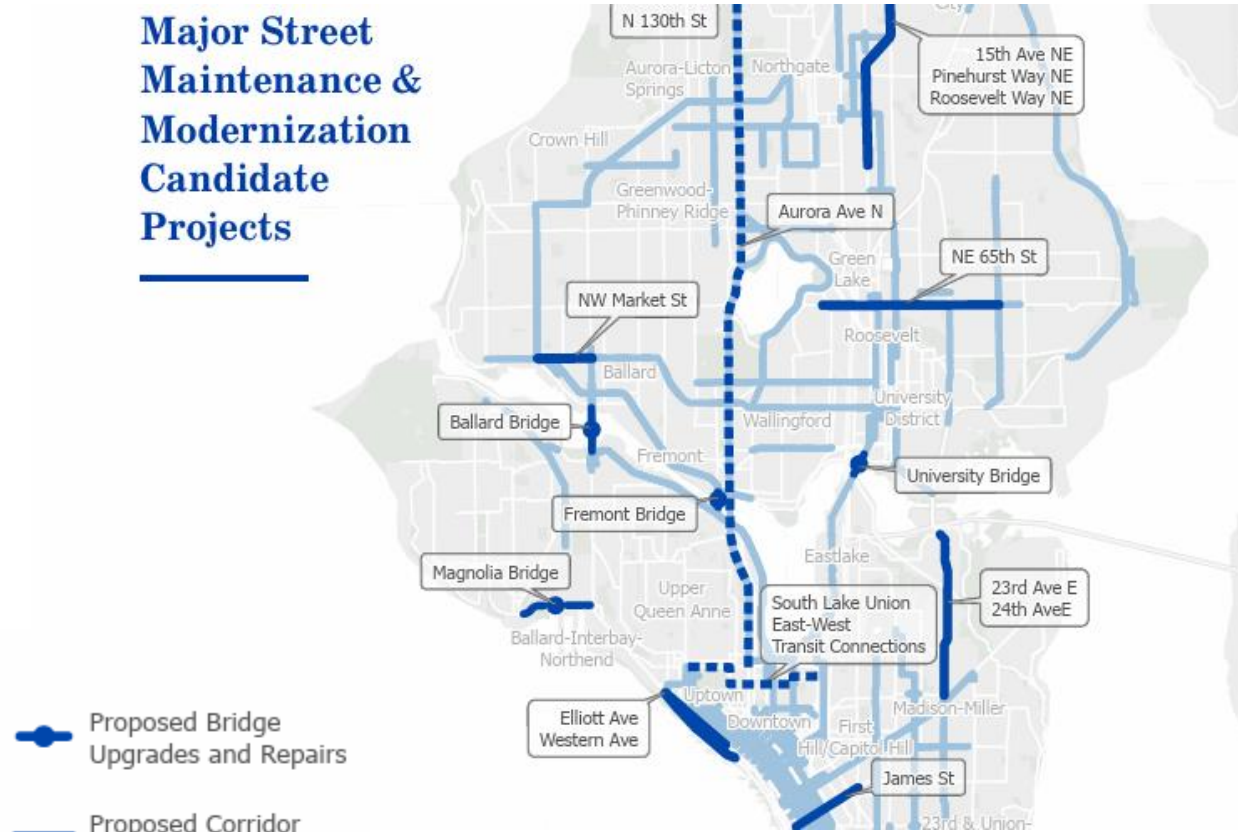
- Invest \$423M to repave and improve Seattle's busiest streets carrying the most buses and trucks
- Build better connections for people walking, rolling, biking, taking transit, and moving goods

OUTCOMES

- Reported potholes filled within 72 hours
- Paving on 38% of the busiest blocks where streets are in poor condition
- 50 lane-miles of spot paving repair and paving on arterial streets at approximately 400 locations
- 9 full-depth street reconstructions with improvements for all modes of travel
- 5 preventative maintenance paving corridor projects



Major Street Maintenance & Modernization Candidate Projects



Bridges and Structures

CONTEXT

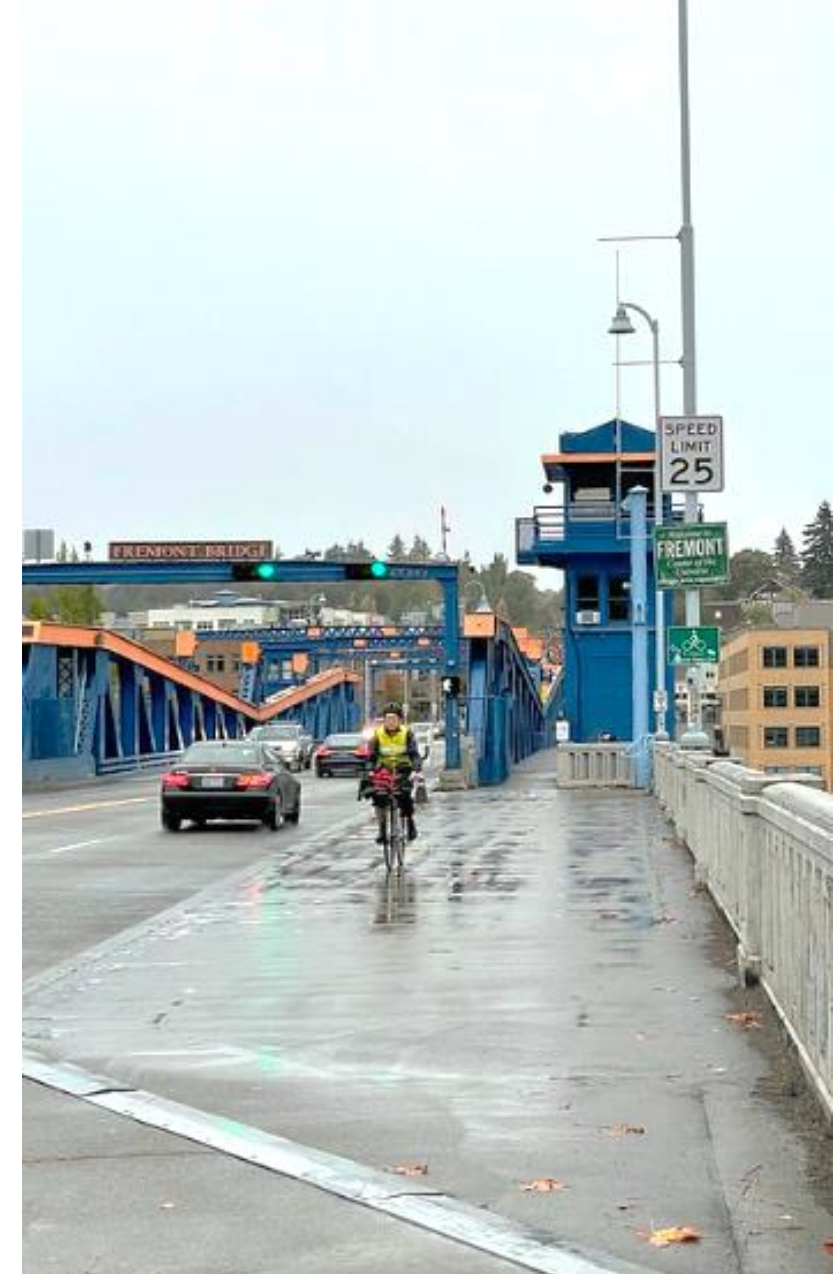
- Moveable bridges open more than 14,000 times a year, and 3 of them are over 100 years old

PROPOSAL

- Invest \$218M to keep bridges in good working condition and prepare for future projects
- Launch a new preventative bridge maintenance program to make the right treatment at the right time
- Make structural repairs on the Ballard and Magnolia bridges

OUTCOMES

- Upgraded electrical and mechanical systems on 3 moveable Ship Canal bridges: Ballard Bridge, Fremont Bridge, and the University Bridge
- Preventative bridge maintenance program to meet optimal repair schedules
- Up to 5 selected bridges and structures prepared for future replacement
- Monitoring and improvements to areaways, the underground spaces in Pioneer Square where goods move between the sidewalk and building basements



Transit Corridors and Connections

CONTEXT

- More than 150,000 people ride the bus or train in Seattle each day
- Approximately 20% of Seattle households do not own a car

PROPOSAL

- Invest \$121M to connect people safely and reliably to transit hubs
- Support King County Metro's proposed RapidRide R Line - Rainier project
- Improve connections to new and existing Link light rail stations

OUTCOMES

- Reliability improvements on 2 high-ridership bus routes in equity priority areas (routes 7 and 36)
- 2 new east-west transit corridors providing access to new light rail stations at N 130th St and Alaska Junction
- 160 projects, such as transit-only lanes or special signals at busy intersections, to improve reliability on the busiest routes



Pedestrian Safety

CONTEXT

- About a quarter of city streets are missing sidewalks - 11,000 blocks

PROPOSAL

- Invest \$109M to build and repair sidewalks, crossings, and curb ramps so people walking and rolling can safely get to where they need to go

OUTCOMES

- Construction of 250 blocks of new sidewalks, fostering accessible walking and rolling connections to transit and schools
- Support for construction of 10,000 accessible curb ramps
- 34,000 spot repairs on buckled and damaged sidewalks
- 9 stairway repairs to connect our hilly neighborhoods



Bicycle Safety

CONTEXT

- Not all areas of the city are equally served by protected bike lane network
- We're working to serve all public schools with an all ages and ability bike facility

PROPOSAL

- Invest \$94M to expand Seattle's bike network
- Connect schools to bike lanes and neighborhood greenways
- Maintain and upgrade existing protected bike lanes so more people can ride bikes

OUTCOMES

- Bike lane connections for gaps in the network
- New and upgraded bikeways in equity priority areas
- Bicycle connections for all ages and abilities with 5 new or expanded neighborhood greenways on residential streets
- 30% of existing protected bike lanes upgraded with concrete bike barriers
- Maintenance program for existing bike lanes with regular sweeping and barrier repair



Signals & Operations

CONTEXT

- We have over 1,100 signalized intersections
- Modern signals and cabinets allow for accessibility improvements and remote signal timing changes

PROPOSAL

- Invest \$100M to upgrade traffic signal technology and reliability for multimodal access, large events, and trips in and out of Seattle's ports

OUTCOMES

- Adjusted signal timing on 40 corridors to work better for all travelers
- 4-5 intelligent transportation system pilot projects
- 10 new modernized traffic signals
- Quick responses to incidents with 24/7 staffing of Seattle's Transportation Operations Center
- Over 5,500 replaced signs to make it easy for people to find their way
- Accessible pedestrian signals added at 50 crossings



Freight & Goods Movement

CONTEXT

- Seattle Transportation Plan key move to support access to jobs, freight movement, and growth in deliveries

PROPOSAL

- Invest \$25M for improvements to support trucks delivering goods and providing services
- Improve corridors and bridges that trucks use when traveling to and from Port of Seattle facilities and between the city's manufacturing and industrial centers

OUTCOMES

- Repairs on 20% of major truck streets in poor condition
- 32 freight spot improvements such as intersection and signal timing upgrades
- Partnership paving projects with the Port of Seattle to improve the streets that carry the heaviest vehicles



Climate & Resiliency

CONTEXT

- SDOT Climate Change Response Framework
- In Seattle, 61% of harmful emissions come from transportation
- City climate goal is to increase Seattle's tree canopy to at least 30% by 2037

PROPOSAL

- Invest \$49M to directly address climate change in addition to mode shift,
- Make the air cleaner in neighborhoods most affected by pollution and make sustainable transportation options more accessible

OUTCOMES

- Partnerships that help electrify our transportation system, encourage e-bike programs, and improve electric vehicle charging options
- Strategies for up to 3 low-pollution neighborhoods, including low-emissions goods delivery in areas most impacted by climate change and pollution
- Expansion of tree species diversity and maintenance of our existing urban forest
- Trees planted in neighborhoods that historically have had less investment in tree planting and care



Neighborhood Street Improvements

CONTEXT

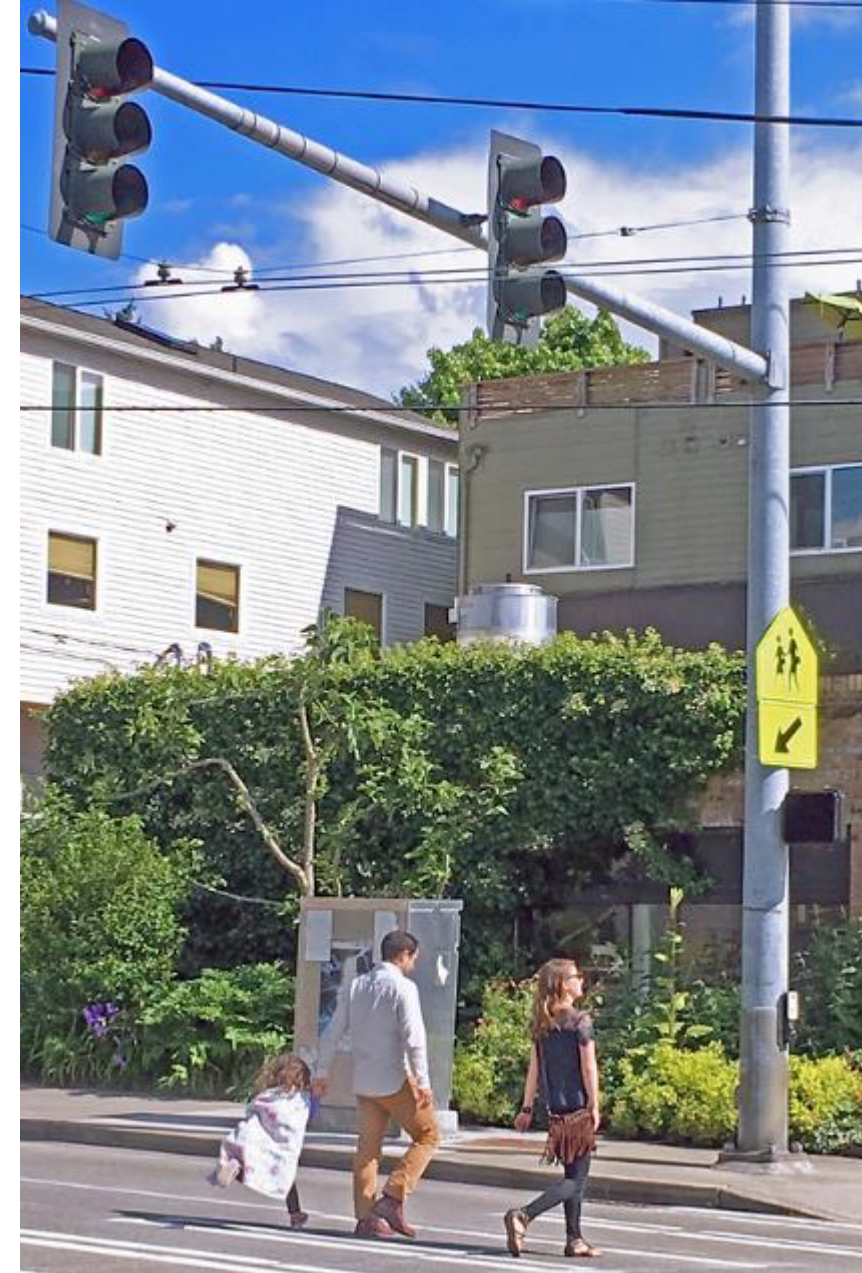
- SDOT Transportation Equity Framework recommends bringing more community input into the projects SDOT delivers

PROPOSAL

- Invest \$48M to build projects that are co-created with community, focusing on neighborhoods with historical underinvestment

OUTCOMES

- Build projects requested by community members like new sidewalks, crossings, transit accessibility improvements, public art, and more
- Form enduring relationships with specific neighborhoods and communities in equity priority areas to identify and build transportation improvements they need most



People Streets and Public Spaces

CONTEXT

- Seattle Transportation Plan calls for a vibrant and safe city where the streets, sidewalks and public spaces hum with social and economic activity.

PROPOSAL

- \$57M to make public spaces more inviting so people can enjoy unique and vibrant neighborhoods and business districts
- Invest in maintenance, lighting, wayfinding, and activation to support Downtown revitalization









OUTCOMES

- 8 transformed public spaces with redesigned streets, seating, wayfinding, lighting, and activation, including lighting at transit plazas and stops
- Dozens of spot improvements and pilot projects with a focus on equity priority areas
- Maintenance and ongoing activation support for public spaces citywide



Draft Transportation Levy Renewal

Program investments have multiple co-benefits

	 SAFETY	 PEOPLE WALKING	 PEOPLE BIKING	 TRANSIT RIDERS	 CLIMATE	 NEIGHBORHOODS	 DOWNTOWN	 FREIGHT
Repave and improve streets (\$423M)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Bridge Maintenance (\$218M)	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Improve transit connections (\$121M)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Build and repair sidewalks (\$109M)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Reduce traffic collisions (\$107M)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Install and maintain traffic signals (\$100M)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Expand bike lane network (\$94M)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Add lighting and activate public spaces (\$57M)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Address climate change (\$49M)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Build projects with community (\$48M)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Make freight improvements (\$25M)	✓						✓	✓

Ways to Engage

Levy Renewal Proposal is available for public feedback through April 26. The City of Seattle invites people to read and engage with the proposal in numerous ways.

Public engagement:

- Visit the online engagement hub in 9 languages
- Email us at MoveSeattle@seattle.gov
- Visit our website at seattle.gov/transportation/levy



Thank you

