

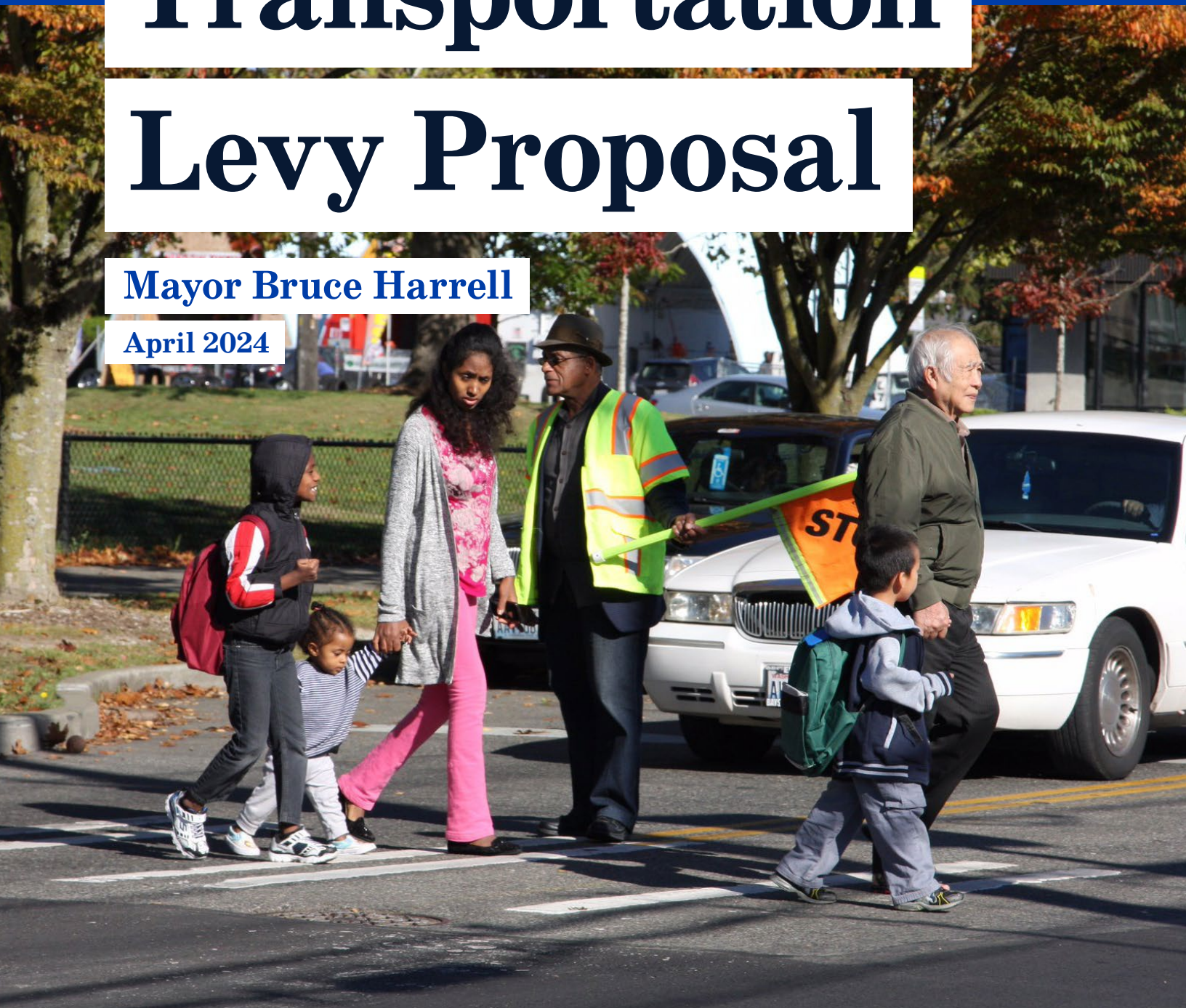


City of Seattle

# Transportation Levy Proposal

Mayor Bruce Harrell

April 2024



Draft for Public Input

## Transportation Levies in Seattle

- ✓ For the last 18 years, Seattle voters have supported transportation levies that make improvements to our streets, sidewalks, bridges, and traffic signals.
- ✓ The Levy to Move Seattle, which expires at the end of 2024, represents roughly 30% of the Seattle Department of Transportation's budget for core services and new projects.
- ✓ The levy described in this document is proposed for \$1.35 billion over 8 years, reflecting the safety and maintenance needs of our transportation infrastructure, the impacts of inflation, and the rising costs of construction.
- ✓ The 9-year, \$930 million Levy to Move Seattle passed in 2015 costs the owner of a median-priced Seattle property (valued at \$866,000) about \$24 per month.
- ✓ The proposed levy would cost the median Seattle homeowner about \$36 per month, approximately \$12 more per month than the current levy.
- ✓ This levy would pave roads, repair bridges, build sidewalks and safer streets, improve connections to light rail stations and transit, and build safe walking, rolling, and biking routes.

## WHAT THE LEVY WOULD COST

Levies are paid for by Seattle property owners. Under the expiring Levy to Move Seattle, the median assessed value Seattle homeowner pays about \$24 per month.

This levy proposal would increase monthly costs by:



per month  
for a \$1M home



per month  
for an \$866,000 median value home



per month  
for a \$500,000 home

## Seattle transportation levies have helped pay for:



**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



# Transportation Levy Proposal

The Mayor's proposal calls for an 8-year, \$1.35 billion levy to renew the current levy expiring this year.

The following pages describe our areas of investment, including specific activities and outputs, as well as examples of candidate projects. These examples highlight some of what's possible through the levy, although more outreach is needed to finalize what we'll deliver.

-  Repave and reconstruct 38% of the busiest blocks where streets are in poor condition.
-  Repair 20% of Major Truck Streets in poor condition.
-  Upgrade mechanical systems to keep our moveable Ship Canal bridges working reliably.
-  Repair 34,000 urgent sidewalk defects and replace sidewalks.
-  Repave at least 15 of our busiest streets, improving them for people to walk, roll, bike, and take transit.
-  Update signal timing on 40 corridors.
-  Install new traffic signals that improve flow and safety for people and goods.



Learn more and share your feedback at  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/levy](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/levy)





Support construction of 250 blocks of new sidewalks.



Contribute to 10,000 new accessible curb ramps.



Improve walking and biking connections and lighting to public schools and light rail stations.



Improve the bike network by increasing protection, enhancing maintenance, and closing gaps.



Install head-start pedestrian walk signals at 280 intersections.



Implement safety projects on 12 or more corridors that have the highest number of crashes.



Upgrade 30% of existing protected bike lanes with better barriers.



Create or expand 5 or more neighborhood greenways.



Make improvements on 5 of the most delayed transit routes.



Upgrade 2 busy bus routes in equity priority areas.



Add 2 east-west transit corridors providing access to light rail stations.



Build 160 projects that improve transit reliability, equity, and safety.



Partner with community to install electric vehicle charging options and low-pollution neighborhoods.



Expand the Neighborhood Street Fund to build projects requested by communities.



Expand tree canopy cover and tree species diversity.



Improve public spaces and pedestrian lighting so people can walk, play, and enjoy outdoor activities safely.



Invest in maintenance, lighting, wayfinding, and activation to support Downtown revitalization.

# Vision Zero & School Safety

**Reduce traffic collisions, severe injuries, and fatalities through targeted improvements to streets, sidewalks, intersections, paths, and crossings (\$107M)**

- Deliver improvements in prioritized high-collision areas and safety corridor projects on the High Injury Network.
- Deliver signal, lighting, crossing, and street design treatments that make travel safer for people walking, rolling, and biking.
- Improve walking and biking routes to schools, calm and organize traffic circulation around school buildings, and expand safety programs at Seattle Public Schools.

## Candidate Projects:

- Aurora Ave N Safety Corridor
- Rainier Ave S Safety Corridor
- Spring St Safety Corridor
- S Othello St Safety Corridor
- S Graham St Safety Corridor
- N 105th St/Holman Rd Safety Corridor
- Dexter Ave N Safety Corridor
- Lake City Way Safety Corridor
- 4th Ave S Safety Corridor



## THE LEVY WOULD FUND:

- ✓ 150% increase in Vision Zero funding
- ✓ Substantial safety projects for at least 40 high-collision locations
- ✓ Leading pedestrian intervals (head starts for people crossing) at 280 intersections
- ✓ Safety projects on 12 or more corridors in the High Injury Network
- ✓ Traffic calming treatments on 50 or more corridors



# Major Street Maintenance

Repave and improve streets that carry the most buses, trucks, and cars, and make it safer for everyone to walk, roll, bike, and ride transit (\$423M)

- Fill reported potholes within 72 hours.
- Make significant, transformative corridor improvements, delivering safety, transit, bike, and people street benefits.
- Repave targeted locations every year with repair and maintenance delivered by City crews.
- Refresh curb and pavement markings.



## THE LEVY WOULD FUND:

- ✓ Paving on 38% of the busiest blocks where streets are in poor condition
- ✓ At least 50 lane miles of spot paving repair on arterial streets, at approximately 400 locations
- ✓ 9 full-depth reconstructions, with improvements for all modes of travel
- ✓ 5 preventative maintenance projects






# Major Street Maintenance & Modernization Candidate Projects

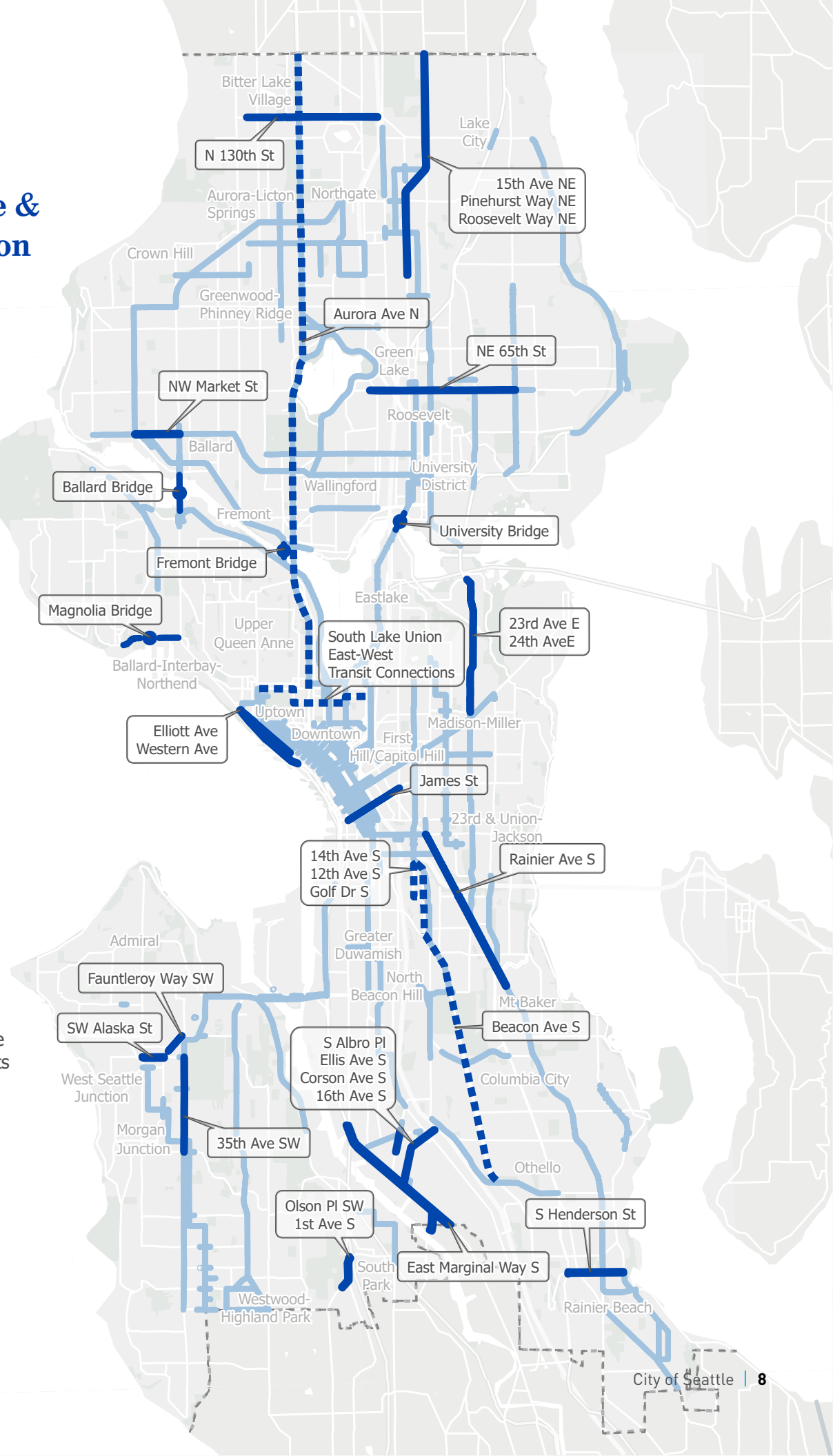
These projects are not yet designed. The descriptions below illustrate potential improvements.

- **N 130th St: 1st Ave NW to I-5** — Paving with a safety redesign to better connect people to the future 130th St Station. Includes protected bike lanes, crossing improvements, trees, sidewalk reconstruction, and transit priority.
- **15th Ave NE / Pinehurst Way NE / Roosevelt Way: NE 92nd St to NE 145th St** — Paving with redesign for safer speeds, including upgraded and expanded protected bike lanes and bus stops, pedestrian lighting, sidewalks, and crossings.
- **NE 65th St: 2nd Ave NE to 35th Ave NE** — Paving with upgraded protected bike lanes, bus stops, and accessible connections to Roosevelt Station. Includes sidewalk repairs, crossing improvements, extended protected bike lanes, and trees.
- **NW Market St: 15th Ave NW to 24th Ave NW** — Street reconstruction to make existing street designs safer for all travelers and upgrade sidewalks, crossings, and bike connections.
- **23rd Ave E / 24th Ave E: E John St to E Lake Washington Blvd** — Reconstruction and paving, including a corridor safety analysis, additional transit investment, and crossing improvements, sidewalk repair, and neighborhood greenway upgrades.
- **South Lake Union East-West Transit Connections** — Transit project to make east-west bus travel more reliable, with connections to the future South Lake Union Station. Includes a proposed new corridor on Harrison St / Mercer St from Fairview Ave N to Queen Anne Ave N, and continued evaluation of the Route 8 with our transportation agency partners.
- **Elliott Ave / Western Ave: Bell St to Thomas St** — Paving with upgraded bike lanes, sidewalk repair, and safety upgrades.
- **James St: 3rd Ave to Broadway** — Street reconstruction to support high-volume traffic and bus service. Includes upgrades to sidewalks and traffic signals, pedestrian safety redesigns, and landscaping and trees.
- **Rainier Ave S: S Walden St to S Jackson St** — Street reconstruction and paving to support RapidRide R Line. Includes bus lanes, improved crossings, sidewalk expansion and repair, trees, pedestrian lighting, safety updates, better access to the Judkins Park Station, and evaluation of protected bike lanes.
- **Beacon Ave S: 14th Ave S to 39th Ave S / 12th Ave S & 14th Ave S: Jose Rizal Bridge to Beacon Ave S** — Street redesign for more reliable Route 36 service and to extend protected bike lanes and trails. Includes paving, sidewalk repairs, and crossing improvements to improve safety and accessibility.
- **Fauntleroy Way SW** — Paving to keep roadway functional during light rail station construction and support future improvements.
- **35th Ave SW: SW Morgan St to SW Alaska St** — Street reconstruction with a corridor safety analysis and evaluation of transit improvements. Includes sidewalk repair, crossing improvements, and evaluation of bike routes.
- **S Albro Pl, Corson Ave S, and Ellis Ave S: East Marginal Way S to I-5** — Project to preserve pavement and improve crossings, repair sidewalks, enhance the pedestrian environment, and evaluate safety and transit improvements.
- **E Marginal Way S: 1st Ave S to 16th Ave S** — Project will leverage grant funding to restore pavement, evaluate safety improvements, and make sidewalk repairs and small upgrades to transit.
- **Olson Pl SW / 1st Ave S: 2nd Ave SW to SW Cloverdale St** — Street reconstruction with a widened sidewalk or trail and treatments to keep vehicles from skidding on wet pavement.
- **S Henderson St: MLK Jr Way S to Seward Park Ave S** — Street reconstruction to support RapidRide R Line and better connect the Rainier Beach Station with the community, schools, and Be'er Sheva Park. Includes protected bike lanes, crossing improvements, and sidewalk repair, as well as elements from the Recreating Henderson Street plan.



# Major Street Maintenance & Modernization Candidate Projects

-  Proposed Bridge Upgrades and Repairs
-  Proposed Corridor Projects
-  Extent of Proposed Corridor Projects to be Determined as Projects are Developed
-  Corridor Projects Delivered by Levy to Move Seattle
-  Seattle City Limits



# Bridges & Structures

## Keep bridges in good and reliable working condition and prepare for future bridge projects (\$218M)

- Launch preventative bridge maintenance program to meet optimal repair schedules.
- Conduct spot repairs, bridge cleaning, painting, and joint and deck replacement to keep bridges in a state of good repair.
- Prepare selected bridges and structures for future replacement.
- Work with private properties to monitor and improve areaways, the underground spaces where goods move between the sidewalk and building basements.

## Candidate Projects:

- Ballard Bridge Structural Repairs
- Ballard Bridge Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade
- Fremont Bridge Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade
- University Bridge Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade
- Magnolia Bridge Structural Repairs



### THE LEVY WOULD FUND:

- ✓ Upgraded electrical and mechanical systems on every moveable Ship Canal bridge
- ✓ Preventative maintenance on all City-owned bridges
- ✓ Early design of 5 structures to seek funding partnerships for replacement
- ✓ Optimal preservation treatment schedule for bridge maintenance and painting

# Transit Corridors & Connections

**Connect people safely to transit hubs, including Link light rail stations; improve bus stops; and reduce delays on bus routes (\$121M)**

- Keep our busiest bus routes moving reliably with transit-only lanes and special signals at busy intersections, and provide lighting, access, and public space improvements.
- Improve transit reliability and access along with safety, paving, and multimodal corridor projects.
- Improve sidewalks, crossings, bike lanes, and lighting near existing and new light rail stations.
- Support King County Metro’s new RapidRide corridors and leverage voter-approved Seattle Transit Measure funds that provide frequent service.

## Candidate Projects:

- N 130th St Multimodal Improvements
- South Lake Union East-West Transit Connections
- 4th Ave S Busway Design
- Alaska Junction Station Connections
- Beacon Ave S, Route 36 Transit & Multimodal Improvements
- Rainier Ave S, S Walden St to S Jackson St Multimodal Improvements
- RapidRide R Line – Rainier Valley Partnership
- S Henderson St Multimodal Improvements












### THE LEVY WOULD FUND:

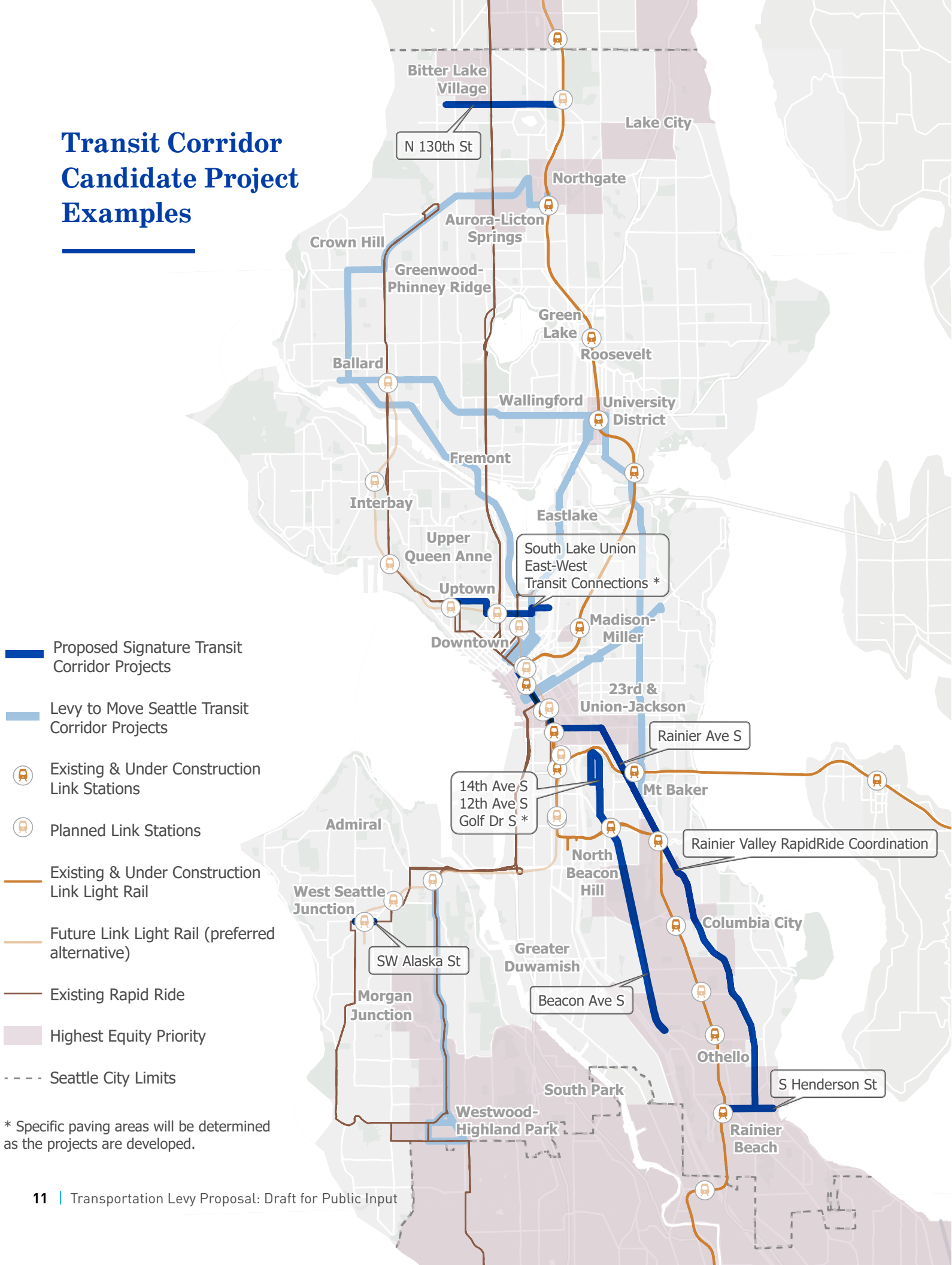
- ✓ Reliability improvements on 2 high-ridership bus routes in equity priority areas (routes 7 and 36)
- ✓ 160 projects to improve bus reliability and safety
- ✓ 2 new east-west transit corridors providing access to light rail stations



# Transit Corridor Candidate Project Examples

-  Proposed Signature Transit Corridor Projects
-  Levy to Move Seattle Transit Corridor Projects
-  Existing & Under Construction Link Stations
-  Planned Link Stations
-  Existing & Under Construction Link Light Rail
-  Future Link Light Rail (preferred alternative)
-  Existing Rapid Ride
-  Highest Equity Priority
-  Seattle City Limits

\* Specific paving areas will be determined as the projects are developed.



# Pedestrian Programs

**Build and repair sidewalks, crossings, and curb ramps so people walking and rolling can safely get to where they need to go (\$109M)**

- Build new sidewalks to make accessible walking and rolling connections to the bus and train, schools and jobs, and neighborhood destinations.
- Fix buckled and damaged sidewalks.
- Repair stairways to connect our hilly neighborhoods.
- Build new curb ramps and facilities that ensure our neighbors with disabilities and families with strollers can travel easily.
- Make it safer to cross our streets.



## THE LEVY WOULD FUND:

- ✓ Support for construction of 250 blocks of new sidewalks
- ✓ Contributions to 10,000 new accessible curb ramps
- ✓ 34,000 spot repairs on damaged sidewalks
- ✓ 9 stairway repairs

# Signals & Operations

**Install new and maintain and upgrade traffic signals for safe, reliable movement; improve pedestrian and bike accessibility; and support traffic operations during large events and for trips in and out of the port (\$100M)**

- Improve traffic signal timing and add intelligent transportation system (ITS) improvements to help all travelers move more reliably around the city.
- Install new and maintain existing traffic signals to improve traffic flow, modernize our system with accessible pedestrian and bike signals, and make our intersections safer for people walking, biking, rolling, and driving.
- Maintain signs to make it easy for people to find their way.
- Ensure traffic flows smoothly and support quick responses to incidents with 24/7 staffing of Seattle's Transportation Operations Center.

## Candidate Projects:

- Southeast Seattle Smart Mobility Project, focusing on safe access to light rail, emergency vehicles, transit reliability, and safer crossings
- SODO Smart Mobility Project, focusing on event management, safety, and freight operations
- Downtown Smart Mobility Project, improving sensors and communications to make travel better for everyone



## THE LEVY WOULD FUND:

- ✓ Adjusted signal timing on 40 corridors to work best for all travelers
- ✓ 4 to 5 Intelligent Transportation System pilot projects
- ✓ 24/7 service in the Transportation Operations Center
- ✓ Major maintenance projects on 40 signals
- ✓ At least 10 new modernized traffic signals
- ✓ Preventative maintenance at traffic signals
- ✓ Over 5,500 replacement signs
- ✓ Accessible pedestrian signals at 50 crossings



# Bike Safety Program

**Expand Seattle’s protected bike lane network; connect schools to bike lanes, paths, and neighborhood greenways; and maintain and upgrade existing bike lanes (\$94M)**

- Add concrete-protected bike lanes as part of paving projects, close significant gaps, and upgrade existing protected bike lanes with improved barriers.
- Create bicycle connections for all ages and abilities with neighborhood greenways on residential streets.
- Maintain existing bike lanes with regular sweeping and barrier repair.

## Candidate Projects:

- Beacon Ave S Middle Segment
- Alaska Junction Station Connection
- N 130th St Multimodal Improvements
- S Henderson St Multimodal Improvements



## THE LEVY WOULD FUND:

- ✓ Connections for gaps in the bike network
- ✓ New and upgraded bikeways in equity priority areas
- ✓ 5 new neighborhood greenways
- ✓ 30% of existing protected bike lanes upgraded with concrete bike barriers

# People Streets & Public Spaces

**Make public spaces more inviting and improve lighting so people can enjoy unique and vibrant neighborhoods and business districts (\$57M)**

- Transform public spaces with redesigned streets, seating, wayfinding, and activation, including lighting at transit plazas and stops.
- Activate, declutter, landscape, and improve the pedestrian experience in important community and neighborhood spaces.

## Candidate Projects:

- 3rd Ave Transit Corridor Early Improvements
- Chinatown/International District Alleys Transformation and Activation
- NE 42nd St Green Street Improvements
- Citywide Seamless Seattle Wayfinding Expansion
- Capitol Hill-Central District E Union St Revival Corridor
- Lake City Little Brook Healthy Streets
- Occidental Promenade Early Improvements



## THE LEVY WOULD FUND:

- ✓ 8 transformational People Street projects
- ✓ Dozens of spot improvements and pilot projects, with a focus on equity priority areas
- ✓ 8 projects to declutter sidewalks, improve landscaping and lighting, and add street furniture, art, activation, and pedestrian wayfinding
- ✓ Maintenance of public spaces citywide, focusing at transit stops and in equity priority areas

# Climate & Resiliency

**Address climate change directly, reducing air pollution and making sustainable transportation options more available (\$49M)**

- Support partnerships that help electrify our transportation system, encourage e-bike programs, and improve electric vehicle charging options in neighborhoods.
- Launch strategies for low-pollution neighborhoods, including low-emissions goods delivery in areas most impacted by climate change and pollution.
- Plant and care for trees, expand tree species diversity, and maintain our existing urban forest.
- Plant trees in neighborhoods that historically have had less investment in tree planting and care.



## THE LEVY WOULD FUND:

- ✓ Partnerships with up to 3 neighborhoods on low-pollution pilot projects
- ✓ Support for Seattle City Light's expansion of electric vehicle charging stations citywide
- ✓ Investments that encourage mode shift to more sustainable travel options
- ✓ Expanded tree canopy cover and tree species diversity



# Neighborhood Street Improvements

**Build projects that are co-created with community, focusing on neighborhoods with historical under investment (\$48M)**

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



## **THE LEVY WOULD FUND:**

- ✓ Expansion of the Neighborhood Street Fund to build projects requested by communities, prioritizing areas of historic under investment

# Freight & Goods Movement

**Make freight improvements to support trucks delivering goods and providing services (\$25M)**

- Make investments to support the freight network, including adjustments to improve truck movement, intersection upgrades, and additional truck parking.
- Invest in corridors and bridges that trucks use when traveling to and from Port of Seattle facilities and between the city's manufacturing and industrial centers.
- Pave streets that carry heavy truck traffic and support upgrades that make our bridges stronger and safer.

## Candidate Projects:

Partnership paving projects with the Port of Seattle to improve the streets that carry the heaviest trucks, which could include:

- Harbor Island operations and maintenance projects
- East Marginal Way Central Segment











### THE LEVY WOULD FUND:

- ✓ Repairs on 20% of Major Truck Streets in poor condition
- ✓ 32 spot improvements to freight corridors

# Investments at a Glance

This levy proposal reflects the safety and maintenance needs of our transportation infrastructure. The \$1.35 billion, 8-year proposal would cost the median Seattle homeowner about \$12 more per month than the expiring Levy to Move Seattle, for a total of \$36 per month. It would fund investments in every neighborhood and business district to help build a safe, reliable, and connected Seattle.

The proposed levy would benefit Seattle in many ways:								
	Safety	People Walking and Rolling	People Biking	Transit Riders	Climate	Neighborhoods	Downtown	Freight
<b>Repave and improve streets</b> that carry the most buses, trucks, and cars, and make it safer for everyone to walk, roll, bike, and ride transit (\$423M)	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
<b>Keep bridges in good and reliable working condition</b> and prepare for future bridge projects (\$218M)	●	●	●	●				●
<b>Connect people safely to transit hubs</b> , including Link light rail stations; improve bus stops; and reduce delays on bus routes (\$121M)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
<b>Build and repair sidewalks, crossings, and curb ramps</b> so people walking and rolling can safely get to where they need to go (\$109M)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
<b>Reduce traffic collisions, severe injuries, and fatalities</b> through targeted improvements to streets, sidewalks, intersections, paths, and crossings (\$107M)	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
<b>Install new and maintain and upgrade traffic signals</b> for safe, reliable movement; improve pedestrian and bike accessibility; and support traffic operations during large events and for trips in and out of the port (\$100M)	●	●	●	●			●	●
<b>Expand Seattle’s protected bike lane network;</b> connect schools to bike lanes, paths, and neighborhood greenways; and maintain and upgrade existing bike lanes (\$94M)	●	●	●		●	●	●	
<b>Make public spaces more inviting and improve lighting</b> so people can enjoy unique and vibrant neighborhoods and business districts (\$57M)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
<b>Address climate change directly,</b> reducing air pollution and making sustainable transportation options more available (\$49M)		●	●	●	●	●		●
<b>Build projects that are co-created with community,</b> focusing on neighborhoods with historical under investment (\$48M)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
<b>Make freight improvements</b> to support trucks delivering goods and providing services (\$25M)	●						●	●

# Help Us Finalize the Transportation Levy Proposal



Please visit the website to share your input  
and stay engaged throughout the process.

[www.seattle.gov/transportation/levy](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/levy)



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**City of Seattle**

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