

## **Seattle Transportation Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) Meeting**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, June 17, 5-7pm

**Location:** In-person at Seattle City Hall – Bertha Knight Landes Room

### **Members Present:**

- Lisa Bogardus
- Jack Brand
- Lynda Firey-Oldroyd
- Alex Hudson
- Harrison Jerome
- Chase Kitchen
- Steven Pumphrey
- Kaid Ni Ray-Tipton
- Nafiso Samatar
- Tyler Vasquez
- Jack Whisner
- Donna McBain Evans
- Geri Poor
- Zach Burton
- City Councilmember Rob Saka
- City Budget Office Director delegate Saroja Reddy

**Members Absent:** Lucy Sloman, Wes Mills

### **Guests:**

- **Mayor's Office:** Deputy Mayor Jessyn Farrell
- **SDOT:** Adiam Emery, Katie Olsen, Francisca Stefan, Serena Lehman, Meghan Shepard, Kalen Carney, Bill LaBorde
- **Councilmember Saka's office:** Ian Griswold
- **Members of the public:** 8

### **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:15PM**

#### **Public Comment**

- Katie O.: Welcome, and thank you for being here. We have several members of the public present as well. This is a time for any members of the public to give public comment if they wish.
  - No public comment given.

## Welcome Address

- Councilmember Rob Saka welcomed the group and provided an overview of the levy development and LOC role.
- Deputy Mayor Jessyn Farrell welcomed the group and thanked them for their participation.
- SDOT Director Adiam Emery welcomed the group and thanked them for their participation.

## Introductions

- Each LOC member present introduced themselves, their motivation for serving on the LOC, and their favorite neighborhood in Seattle.
- Each SDOT staff member introduced themselves, their role, and their connection to the LOC.

## Presentation

- Francisca Stefan, Katie Olsen, Meghan Shepard, and Serena Lehman [presented information about the LOC's role, SDOT's plan for engagement with the LOC, how the Seattle Transportation Levy was developed, and the types of projects the Levy will fund.](#)
- Q&A period followed the presentation:
  - Lynda F.-O. asked: Are the new automated enforcement cameras funded by the Levy?
    - Francisca S.: The Levy has significant funding for Vision Zero and Safety, but these cameras are not funded by the Levy.
  - Tyler V.: Will SDOT provide us with a dictionary of acronyms?
    - Francisca S.: Yes, we will. Also, please feel free to ask us at any time what an acronym means.
    - Katie O.: Our goal is to use as few acronyms as possible in accordance with the City plain language policy.
  - Nafiso S.: What does expansion of the electric vehicle charging program look like?
    - Meghan S.: We will be supporting Seattle City Light's expansion of electric vehicle charging stations to libraries, community centers, and parks, and supporting partnerships and pursuing grants that help electrify the transportation system.
  - Nafiso S.: Are you aware there are more than 3 neighborhoods in need of low-pollution improvements?
    - Meghan S.: Yes, we are. We look forward to using this program in the levy as an opportunity to demonstrate what could be done in the future with additional neighborhoods.
  - Nafiso S.: We just did a survey in King County and learned more about barriers to adopting EVs including lack of charging stations.
  - Jack W.: It was good to have this levy on the ballot in a presidential election year due to higher turnout, and it is good that it is 8 years long so it will fall on a presidential election year in the future.
  - Kaid N. R.-T.: In the slide showing the ways that SDOT is funded in 2025, where are the Levy to Move Seattle dollars going? Are they earmarked or will they fund new levy projects?

- Serena L.: They are all allocated and will go towards projects like RapidRide J from the Levy to Move Seattle.
- Alex H.: What is the impact of the federal government on the expected additional leverage?
  - Serena L.: We intentionally built the levy so that it is less reliant on additional leverage than the past levy, but we still are assuming some federal dollars for some programs. Down the line, we may need to have conversations with you to assess and respond to any impact of the federal grant landscape. This may include timing projects to align with funding availability.
- Lisa B.: How common is it for city transportation departments to be funded this significantly by a levy?
  - Meghan S.: We are in a good position compared to other city transportation departments. The 1% cap on property taxes causes challenges for us.
- Jack B.: What percentage of decisions on projects at a granular level have been made?
  - Meghan S.: Attachment A outlines the bones of the levy. There are many projects that are confirmed, but some work includes exploring the extent of potential improvements on specific streets, and there is flexibility across program areas to identify projects using the outlined prioritization process in the Transportation Levy document.
- Tyler V.: How will the LOC interact with the Transportation Funding Task Force and the Neighborhood Initiated Safety Partnership Program?
  - Meghan S.: Primarily, the LOC will be overseeing the funding for those bodies of work.
- Donna M-E: Can you say more about the auditing function? How will we pursue that?
  - Katie O.: The first step will be connecting with the Office of the City Auditor. We will have them join in the future meeting.

### Closing

- Katie O.: We recognize it is 7pm and you may need to depart. With this in mind, we will review the remaining slides in our next meeting. If members would like to stay and speak to SDOT staff, we will be here. Thank you!

**Adjourn:** 7:05pm

### Action items

Action items below capture tasks from previous meetings and status.

Action	Responsibility	Status
Provide dictionary of common SDOT acronyms to LOC.	SDOT	