

Stairway Program Connecting Seattle Neighborhoods

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Levy Oversight Committee

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Seattle
Department of
Transportation

Outline

- Stairway History
- Program Overview
- Funding
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- Questions

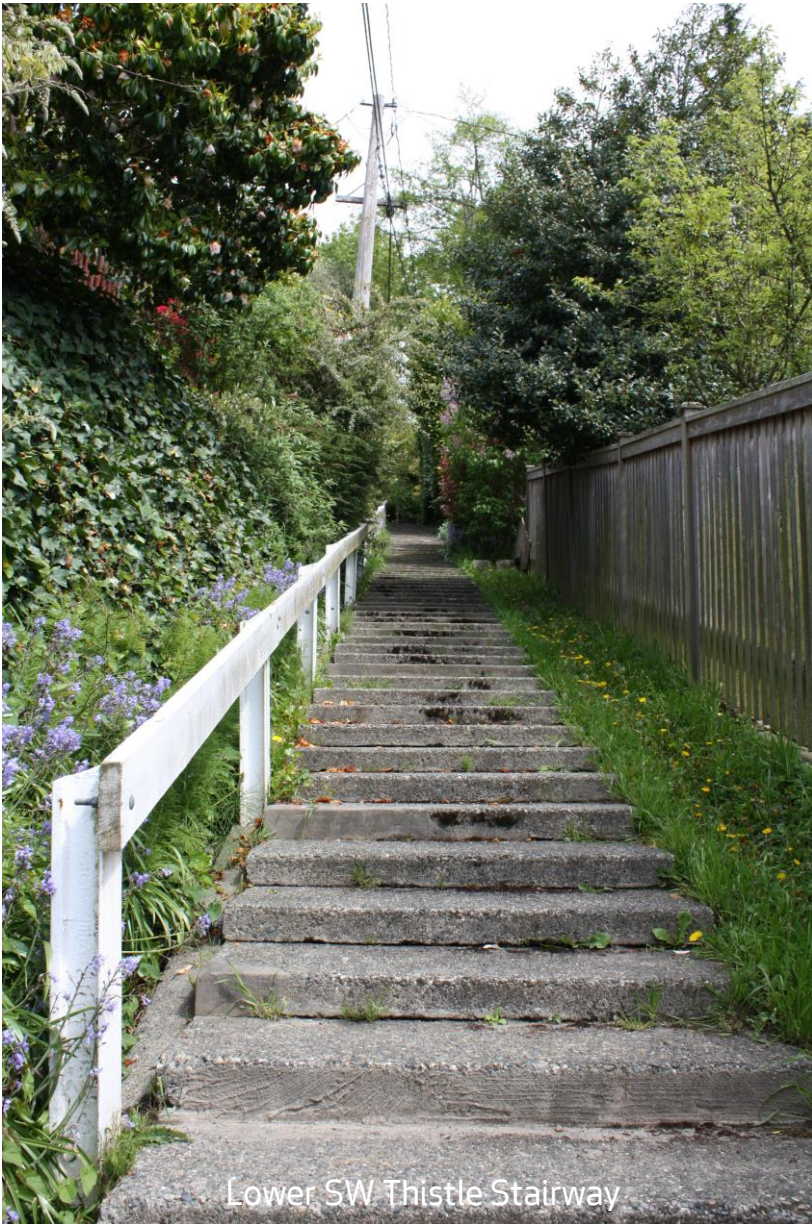


Pike Street hill climb

Key Takeaways

- There are over 500 stairways in Seattle, and we inspect the condition of each public stairway across the city & identify maintenance or replacement options
- We are on track to meet our Levy commitment in the Stairways program
- We are always looking for partnerships to share costs and increase our network of stairways
- We invite you to visit some of the stairways in your neighborhood or around the city

Stairway History in Seattle



Levy Commitment & Funding

Levy to Move Seattle commitment: Make other bridge safety investments including stairway and structure repair and rehabilitation.

In the 2018 Workplan Update Report, we set a target of completing approximately five projects annually.

Fund Source	Total
Levy to Move Seattle	\$4.4M
Local	\$7.5M
Total Funding	\$11.9M



Stairway Program

- Seattle is hilly! That's why we have stairways connecting streets throughout our neighborhoods
- SDOT owns/maintains 500 stairways mostly built in 1930-1950 & totaling over six miles
- Used to "shortcut" up or down a hill; to get from one street to another; to serve a public area such as schools, parks, playgrounds, senior centers, and bus stops; even a place to exercise
- Due to the steep and sloping nature of Seattle's landscape, many of Seattle's streets are connected by stairways - a vital community resource



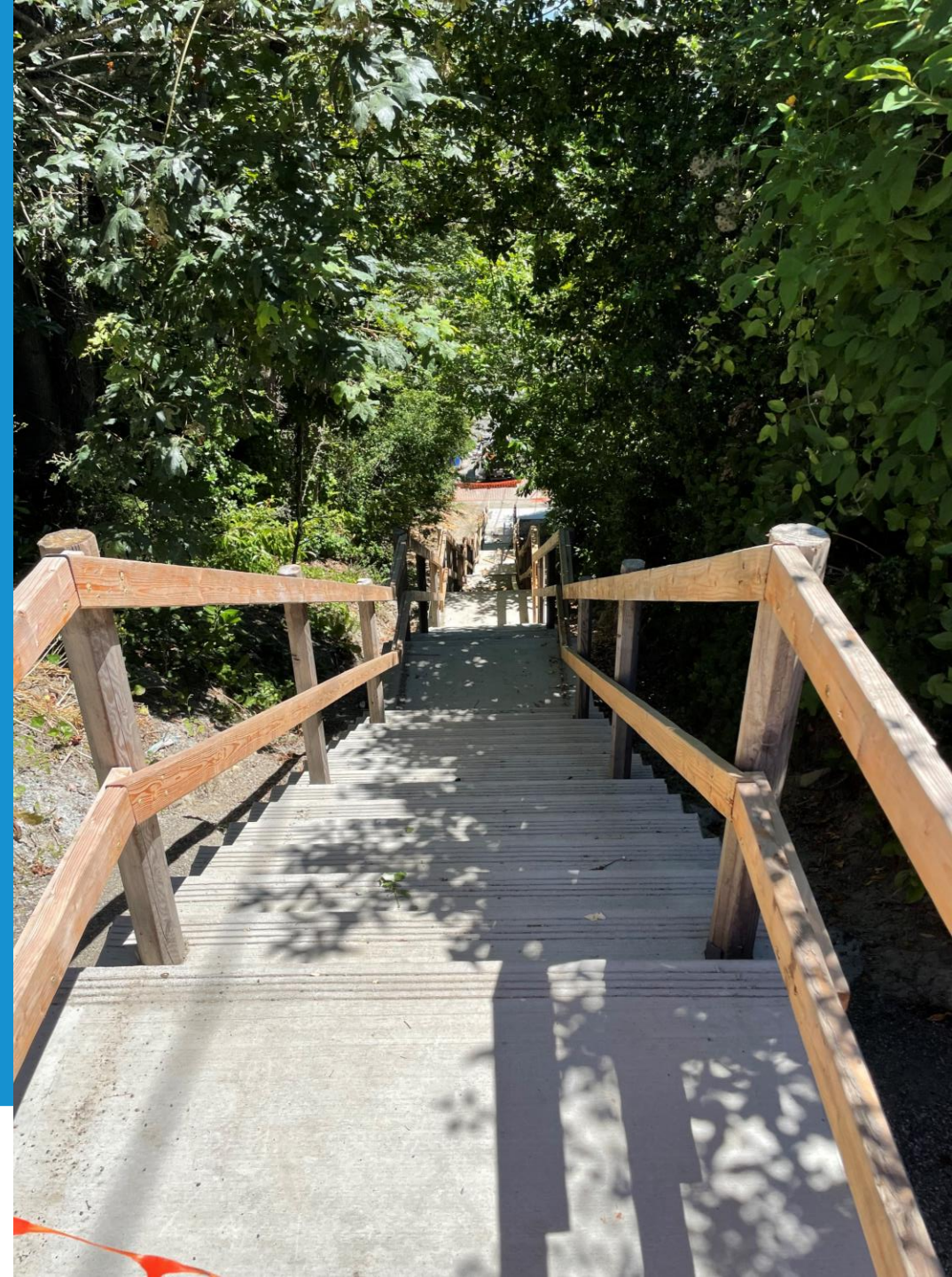
Inspection and Prioritization

- Stairway maintenance is prioritized based on the structural condition of stairway assets
- All of our stairways are in fair or better condition at this time
- Also consider proximity to schools, transit, community centers, libraries, parks, and how critical the stairway is as a connection within the community (availability of alternate routes)
- To keep stairways safe and accessible, we inspect the condition of each public stairway on a 5-year cycle across the city & identify repairs
- Chance of damage on stairways is low
- Some stairways require more frequent inspections



Stairway Rehab vs Replacement

- **Rehabilitation of "slab and rail" stairways:** Many stairways are made of rails and concrete slabs salvaged in the 1940's when the city converted from trolleys to buses
- **Have rebuilt ~90% of these stairways** to current standards, improving community safety and stairway usability
- **Rebuild stairway to current standards:** Includes clearing the adjacent vegetation, demolishing the old stairway, pouring new concrete, and fabricating and installing new handrails
- **Reset stairways:** For historical significance we are rehabilitating some stairways
- **Replace handrail:** Some stairways meet current standards except for handrail



Stairway rehab

- Concrete slabs taken apart and re-stacked
- Face of risers re-grouted
- Newer style rail posts used
- 2x6 recycled plastic used for rail

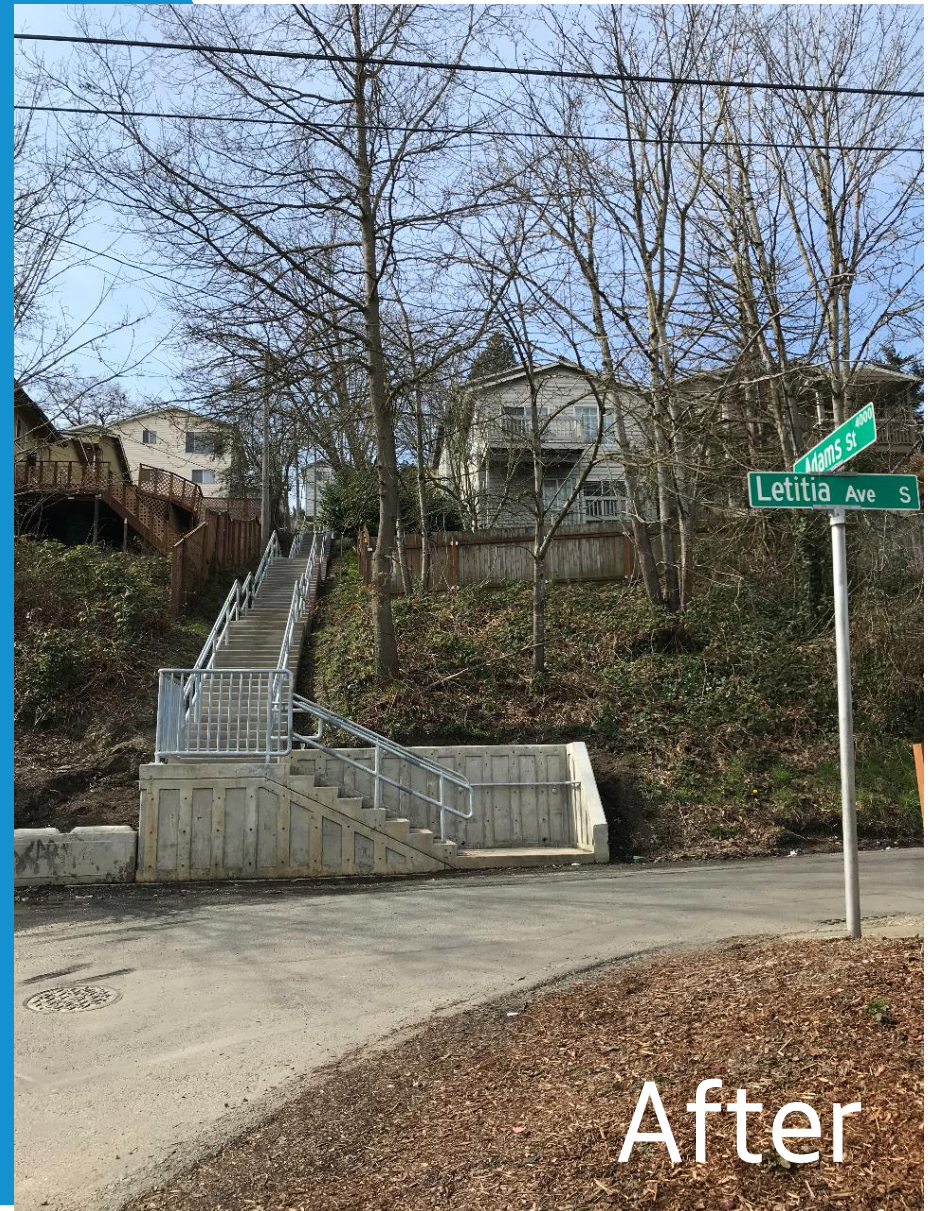


STW-205 McGilvra Blvd E

Stairway Replacement



Before



After

Progress To-Date

LEVY DELIVERABLE	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL THROUGH 2022
Stairway rehabilitation projects	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	39

2022 highlights include:

- Rebuilding stairways to current standards for safety and usability
 - SW Spokane St & SW Admiral Way
 - Highland Dr & 2nd Ave N
 - S Holgate St between 16th & 17th Ave S
 - SW Findlay St between 37th & 38th Ave SW
- Rehabilitating and preserving stairway at E Prospect St & McGilvra Blvd E
- Upgrading rail to current standards on stairway at W Dravus St between 9th & 10th Ave W

We are on track to meet the Levy goal.

Recent stairway projects



STW-224 S Morgan St & MLK



STW-101 W Dravus St & 10th Ave W



STW-353 10th Ave S & S Trenton St



Challenges

- Some stairways are very busy, and often we need to detour people to alternate routes using clear signage and blockage; occasionally people still try to use stairway
- Site conditions such as need for retaining wall and soil conditions require more complicated, sometimes elevated, designs
- Helpful to put in bike guide/runner, but makes the stairway wider and construction slightly more complicated
- Stairway crews also complete priority maintenance work around the city, so sometimes the work schedule needs to be adjusted



STW-708 Princeton Ave NE and Sand Point Way NE

Looking ahead, we will continue to:

- Complete comprehensive outreach, informing neighbors of the project, timeline, and safe alternate routes
- Prioritize partnerships to minimize impact to traveling public and use funding efficiently
- Work with new developers on stairway designs to ensure they meet current standards, prioritizing ADA accessibility.
- Also educate and work with community groups to incorporate desired artistic designs while still meeting current standards.



Questions?



Contact Information



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From the entire SDOT Team:
Thank you!

