

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, March 2, 2021 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Co-chairs: Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Samuel Ferrara

Location: Video Conference

Members present on the phone: Ron Posthuma, Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Joseph Laubach, Samuel Ferrara, Patrick Taylor, Lisa Bogardus, Inga Manskopf, Jen Malley-Crawford, Jennifer Lehman, Dennis Gathard, Kevin Werner, Hester Serebrin, Councilmember (CM) Alex Pederson

Members Absent: Todd Biesold, Vicky Clarke, Ben Noble (City Budget Office)

Guests: David Conway, Rachel McCaffrey, Kris Castleman, Kristen Simpson, Jim Curtain, Matt Donahue, Matt Gemberling, Katie Olsen, Dawn Schellenberg, Brian Sperry (all SDOT), Elliot Helmbrecht (Mayor's Office), Aaron Blumenthal (City Budget Office), Phil Fujii, Ryan Packer (The Urbanist), Eleen Trang

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:04 PM

Welcome and roll call

Rachel B: Conducted a roll call for committee members. David Conway introduced City staff.

Public Comment:

Rachel B: Asked if anyone wanted to give public comment?

No public comment.

Agenda item #1: 2021 Levy delivery plan – annual spend plan and annual planned accomplishments

Presentation, Dave Conway, SDOT

David C: Presented the highlights of the [2021 Levy delivery: planned accomplishments and spend plan](#). This is an accountability and transparency tool and presents a realistic plan and does not change the 9-year commitments. A reminder that the 2020 Annual Report will come out end of March and a future portfolio update report will be published later this year. Dave highlighted several major upcoming 2021 achievements like completion of Fairview Ave N. He highlighted programs that have planned accomplishments in 2021 that differ from the 2018 Workplan Report targets. An example is the Sidewalk Safety Repair Program. We are planning 1,000 to 5,000 sidewalk spot repairs in 2021 instead of 1,000 from the 2018 Workplan Report because

sidewalk deficiencies are a big safety issue and liability for the City. The Fauntleroy Blvd. project has been paused and the Graham Street partnership funding will not be transferred to Sound Transit due to COVID-19 revenue reductions. For the New Sidewalks Program, the high end of the planned accomplishment range for new sidewalk blocks in 2021 is lower than what we showed in the 2018 Workplan Report for reasons such as partnership funding, schedule updates, and other factors affecting project delivery. We are still on track to meet the 9-year commitment of 250 blocks of new sidewalks. We are projecting \$214M to \$268M of spending in 2021. We have organized our spending plan into risk categories (In design to construction (higher risk), Design only (higher risk), In construction (contractor delivered, lower risk), operations and maintenance, and SDOT crew delivered capital projects (higher risk). This excludes spending on projects that will need supplemental budget actions to be restored like the 23rd Ave Phase 3 project.

Hester S: Will you actually save that money for Graham Street?

David C: The levy funds were removed from this project and we have worked with Sound Transit on this change. Sound Transit doesn't need the funding during the timeframe of the levy.

CM Pederson: Can you clarify Slide #5? You mentioned some bridge designs won't be finished until 2023. Can you clarify?

David C: For this bridge planning and design program, we are doing planning level studies only. We are moving forward on 2nd Ave Extension, University Bridge N. Approach, Jackson St and Admiral Bridges (North and South) and are planning to complete these studies in 2023 or 2024.

Jennifer L: How do the risks categories apply to project completion? Some pedestrian programs were impacted last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the West Seattle Bridge closure according to the Ped Board's PMP review.

David C: There are many risks in the work plan given the size and complexity of this workplan portfolio. We try to mitigate risks by planning early and we can supplement crews with alternative contract delivery if needed. That's why we have a spend plan range to account for known and unknown risks.

Inga M: I know there are a list of 2021 Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) Implementation projects to be completed. Is that the project list in the work plan? Also, what is plan for the Vision Zero Program in 2021?

Jim C: The 2021 levy budget for the Vision Zero Program is about \$2M. The 23rd Ave Phase 3 project was put on hold. The passage of the Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD) funding will enable the restoration of the 23rd Ave project. We are also working on 35th Ave SW to build a new signal at SW Graham Street, where there has been some fatalities. On Sand Point Way, the Vision Zero Program partnered with the New Sidewalks Program, and there is more work planned there. Funding was paused on 1st Ave South project due to the pandemic but the project was restored and we plan to get going on that project this year. Yes, the BMP Implementation Plan projects are part of the 2021 work plan.

Patrick T: Is the 12th Ave S Safety Corridor project in the 2021 work plan? Is that an additional phase of work?

Jim C: 12th Ave S Phase 2 is in construction right now. The first phase is further north and we installed a signal and I can send more details about that phase.

Finance subcommittee report out, Ron Posthuma, Kevin Werner

Ron P: We had a good in-depth conversation with SDOT about this 2021 plan. The City may get \$200M from the Federal COVID Relief Bill. Is there a list of projects that will get restored when that happens?

David C: At this time, we don't know what the final package will include. The House package includes direct assistance to the City of Seattle that can be used for a variety of city services, but a decision has not been made on how the city will spend those funds. On the passage of the House Bill, the Mayor has said "The direct funding will be used to support our residents, workers and small businesses and make bold investments to drive our economic recovery. We urge the Senate to pass this legislation quickly so that this assistance can reach our community quickly."

Ron P: We are getting less local match so we should be restoring some of the transportation projects.

Sam F: Would the Mayor put out a plan for how to spend the Federal COVID Relief Bill funding?

Elliot H: We are in the early stages and we haven't gotten into developing a spend plan for those funds. I can report back to the Mayor that this committee wants some relief funding allocated to transportation work.

Ron P: A lot of work planned for contractors has already been advertised so that's a good benchmark.

Kevin W: There's an opportunity for others to be on the finance committee.

Agenda item #2: VLF \$20 Update

Rachel B: In November, the City authorized an additional \$20 in Vehicle License Fees (VLF). \$3.6M of revenue is expected in 2021 and \$7.2M in subsequent years. In a meeting last week, we completed a dot exercise to identify our priorities according to seven different categories, to help determine how the \$20 VLF funding should be allocated. I'd like to discuss which categories the committee supports so Sam and I can provide the LOC recommendations.

Sam F: I supported the levy, proactive asset management, and equity categories. My concern is voter confidence for a future levy.

Hester S: I want to emphasize the equity category. What are the needs of disadvantaged communities? And what does equity mean in the other categories?

Patrick T: Why are we having this conversation? The City has adopted values and goals like climate change and equity. Why are we developing these new categories for the \$20 VLF spend plan? These are my own opinions; we haven't discussed this at the bike advisory board yet.

Rachel B: City council requested that SDOT develop a \$20 VLF spend plan with robust community engagement. My two categories were equity and increased safety and reduced risk. I was

looking for pedestrian safety in the categories and these seven categories aren't organized that way.

Jen M-C: The TAB's perspective is that the scale of the project should match the level of funding. Access to transit should be a criteria as well as multi-modal, all ages and abilities, measurable outcomes, spent in timely fashion, and \$20 VLF funds should not support projects with large amounts of unsecured funding.

Rachel B: Most of the dots went to reducing the maintenance backlog category.

Jennifer L: Were example projects provided in these seven categories?

Sam F: I don't think they gave us specific projects.

Ron P: There probably are projects that meet multiple categories and that's the key.

Elliot H: Just want to clarify it's the Seattle "Transportation" Benefit District not "Transit." These categories are being used to weight the programs and projects.

Rachel B: What feedback would be useful for the City?

Elliot H: I've heard some good things tonight from the members. Knowing your thoughts as to where you placed your dots on these categories would be helpful. We are hoping to get all feedback this week.

Sam F: The letter we wrote in June 2020 prioritized equity and safety projects. Would a simple statement like that suffice?

Rachel B: I think we should use the previous letter as Sam suggests.

Jen M-C: The Transit Board is going to send a letter.

Joe L: Is it possible to use some of this funding for Seattle Public Schools? They are planning to cut some bus service.

Elliot H: I wasn't aware but I can look into that. At this point, we hadn't planned to do that. This may not be the best source and Seattle Public Schools may have other options.

Agenda item #3: Committee business

LOC's 2020 reflection letter discussion and possible vote – Sam Ferrara, Kevin Werner

Kevin W: Shared his computer screen and the committee members reviewed and finalized the committee's 2020 reflection letter.

Sam F: Motion to approve the letter as written, with one additional paragraph on equity that Hester will draft.

Kevin W: Seconded the motion.

Rachel B: The letter is approved.

Subcommittees and modal board reports – Inga Manskopf

Inga M: Can the modal board members provide an update from their modal board and for the Ped and Bike Boards, can you indicate if you've received this year's Implementation Plans yet?

Patrick T: I don't have anything new to report from the bike board. We haven't seen the Implementation Plan.

Jennifer L: At the February meeting, we went discussed the Master Plan. And we have a few positions open now on the board. We haven't seen the Pedestrian Master Plan Implementation Plan yet.

Jen M-C: I have already shared the main issue about the \$20 VLF funds.

LOC Operating Procedures review and possible vote – Sam Ferrara

Sam F: Rachel M sent out an updated committee Operating Procedures document. Are there any questions or comments on it? Since there are no questions or comments, I move to approve the document.

Rachel B: Seconded the motion.

Sam F: The revised committee Operating Procedures document is approved.

Meeting minutes for approval (February 2, 2021) – Rachel Ben- Shmuel, Sam Ferrara

Rachel B: Any comments on the February minutes? If not, I motion to approve the minutes.

Sam F: Seconded the motion.

Rachel B: The minutes are approved.

Adjourn: 6:31 PM

Action items

Action items below capture tasks from previous meetings. Completed items will remain on action item tracker for one additional set of meeting minutes to capture "complete" status and will then be removed.

Action item	Meeting	Lead	Status	Deadline