

# Seattle Transportation Levy



Seattle Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Boards  
February 7, 2024

# Agenda

- Importance of Levy Funding
- Inputs and Goals Inform Levy Renewal
- Funding Plan & Levy Renewal
- Questions & Discussion



# Levy Funding Supports Pedestrian and Bike Safety

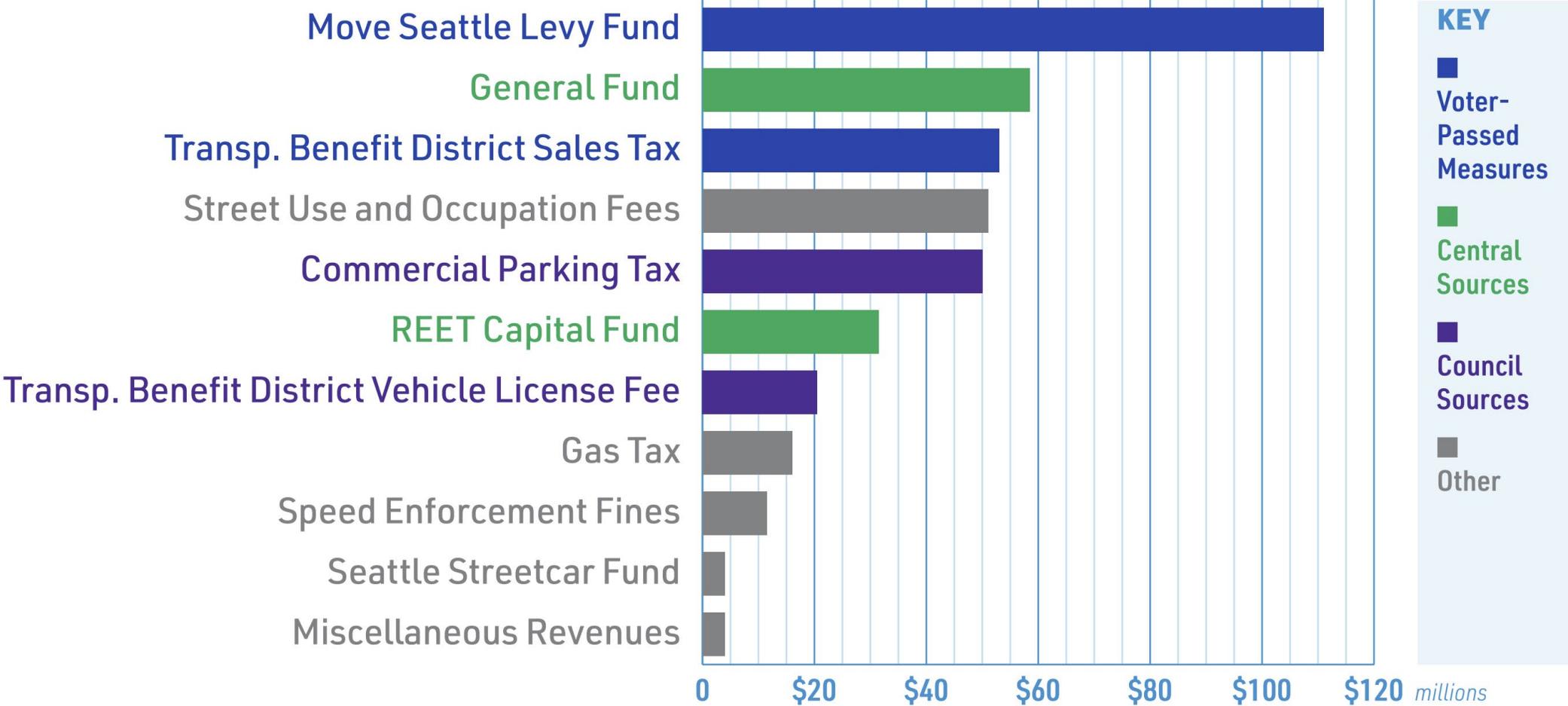


- Transportation levies have made critical investments in Seattle's pedestrian and bicycle network
- Last year, we shared a list of programs funded by the Levy to Move Seattle making major investments in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure:

- Safety Corridors
- Safe Routes to School
- Markings
- Transportation Operations
- Bicycle Safety
- Sidewalk Safety Repair
- Curb Ramps and Crossings
- Neighborhood Street Fund
- Arterial Roadway Maintenance
- Paving Spot Improvements
- Fairview Ave N Bridge
- Stairway Maintenance
- SPU South Park Drainage Partnership
- Multimodal Improvements
- Transit Spot Improvements
- John Lewis Memorial Bridge
- Accessible Mt Baker
- New Sidewalks
- SPU Broadview Partnership
- Lander St Bridge

**\$735 million in Levy to Move Seattle dollars  
has been invested in these programs 2016-2024.**

# Programs and Projects are Supported by Voter Funding



# Levies as a Piece of the Funding Puzzle

**The Funding Plan** considers transportation needs and funding sources across different time horizons. The Funding Plan considers when different funding sources expire, how they are approved or enacted, how much revenue they would generate, where the revenue can be spent, and many other factors.

Examples:

Sales Tax

Vehicle License Fees

Real Estate Excise Tax

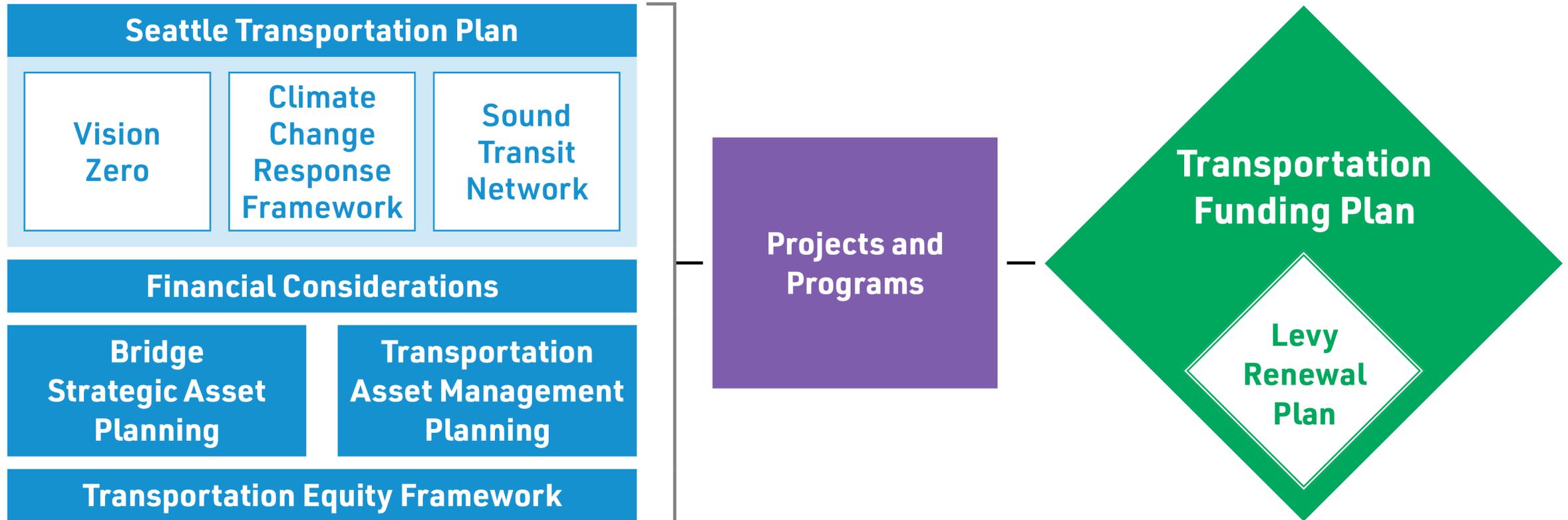
Commercial Parking Tax

Bonds

**Levies**

**The Levy renewal plan** is a time-sensitive piece of this puzzle.  
**A transportation levy will be proposed for the ballot in November 2024.**  
We are currently focused on developing the size and scope of that levy renewal.

# Funding Plan and Levy Renewal Inputs



# Key community input to date

## Levy Oversight Committee

- Preliminary recommendation: strong support for a future transportation package including a levy
- Calls for flexibility, bold leadership, and investments to drive safety outcomes and investments informed by equity
- Provides insight into how a future oversight committee should function and be supported

## Public polling

- Majority support renewing and expanding Seattle transportation levy at both amounts tested (\$1.2B and \$1.7B), with about 2 in 3 supporting a \$1.2B levy
- Top public priorities include maintain and repair bridges, repave streets in poor condition, fix potholes, expand tree canopy, and safe routes to schools
- Close to half recognize need for additional transportation funding in Seattle

## Equity Workgroup, Community Liaisons, advocates, agency partners

- Safety is a top priority, specially making investments in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and filling gaps in the network
- Support community-led projects and staffing dedicated to building relationships with community
- Continue to build on lessons learned from the Levy to Move Seattle

# Seattle Transportation Plan Goals



## SAFETY

Prioritize safety for travelers in Seattle, with no serious injury or fatal crashes



## EQUITY

Co-create with community and implement restorative practices to address transportation-related inequities



## SUSTAINABILITY

Respond to climate change through innovation and a lens of climate justice



## MOBILITY

Provide reliable and affordable travel options that help people and goods get where they need to go



## LIVABILITY

Reimagine city streets as inviting places to linger and play



## MAINTENANCE & MODERNIZATION

Improve city transportation infrastructure and ready it for the future

# Sample Levy Priorities Based on What We've Heard



Investment in **People Streets and Public Spaces**, to create welcoming and safe spaces and hubs for people to safely enjoy the public right-of-way



Approach to investment in **Maintenance and Modernization**, to use opportunities for maintenance to make other needed investments in our streets



Investing in **Safe and Sustainable** modes of transportation, street trees and greening, and other similar efforts in neighborhoods who need them most



**SAFETY PRIORITIZED THROUGHOUT**

# Levy Renewal Vision: Safety and Maintenance

- Safe streets door-to-door
- Well-maintained infrastructure with structural integrity
- Clean, functional city including streets, sidewalks, plazas
- Sustainability for climate resiliency



# Organizing the Levy Renewal

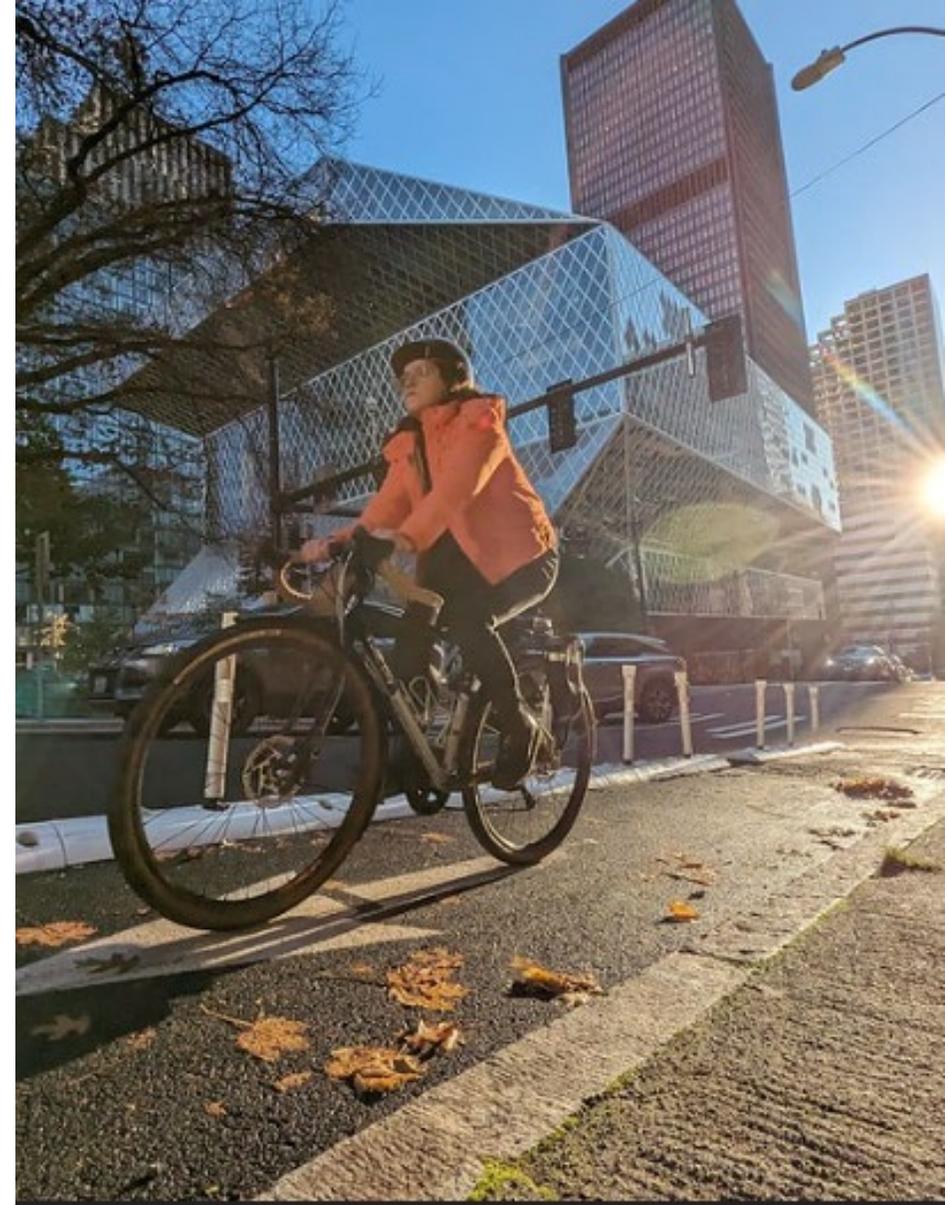
- **Bridges and Structures:** Proactive bridge maintenance
- **Maintenance and Modernization:** Repairing and rebuilding streets and sidewalks to today's standards
- **Safety:** Streets and sidewalks that are safe and accessible from A to B
- **Neighborhoods, People Streets and Places:** People-focused approaches to neighborhoods and business districts, creating safe routes to the places people love
- **Streets that Work:** 24-7 operations keep people and goods moving
- **Project readiness:** Planning for the future within the limits of the levy

# Refocusing SDOT's Work

- Focus on community-input into neighborhood projects with big impacts
- Use equity and sustainability as lens to select projects
- Reorganize and restructure to support corridor safety and multimodal improvements
- Make conservative grant and leveraging estimates
- Ensure accountability while leaving flexibility to address emerging priorities

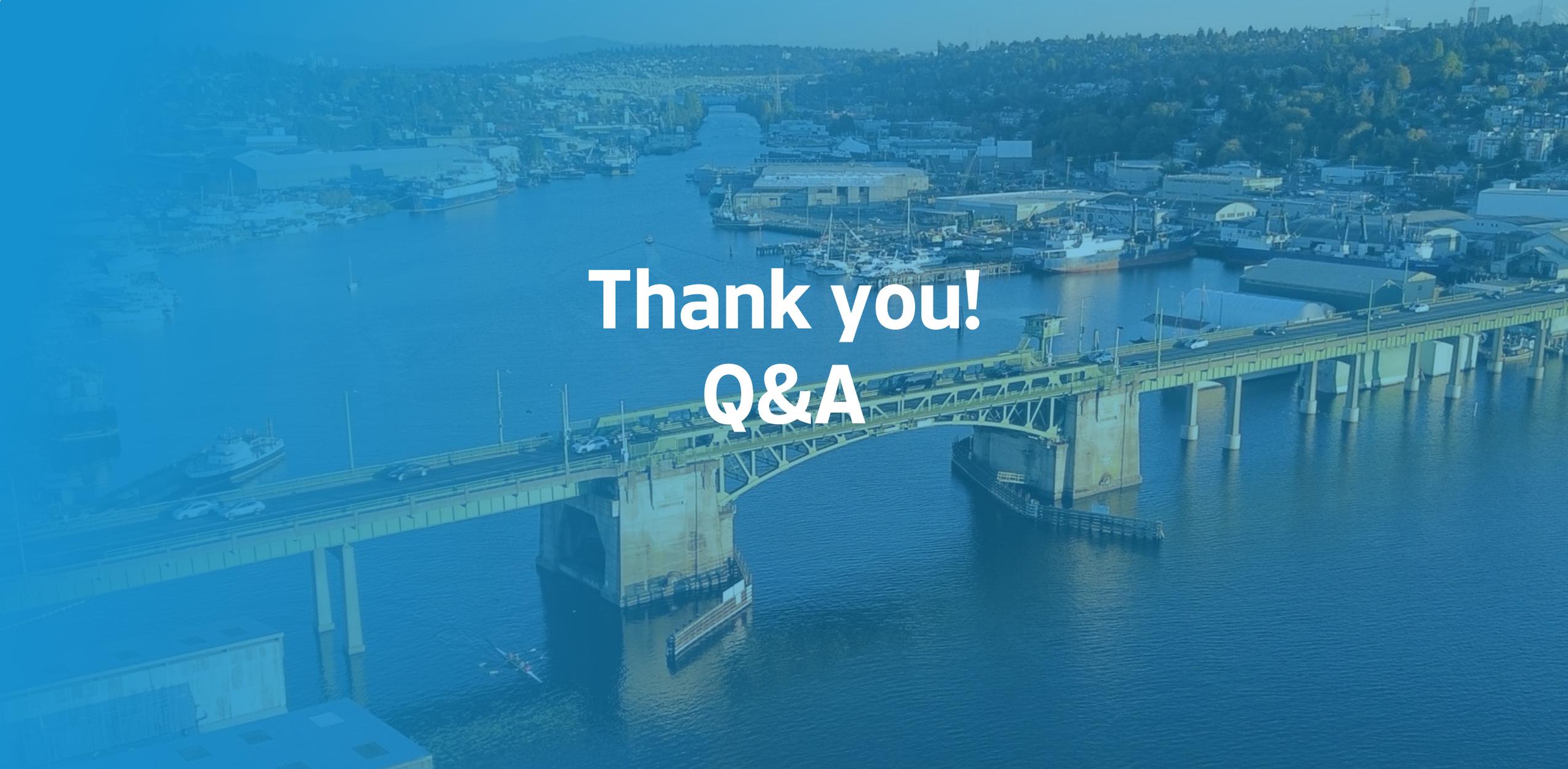
# Timeline and next steps

- Winter 2023: Vision Zero top to bottom review
- Spring 2023: Internal asset needs analysis, initial polling on priorities
- Fall 2023: DRAFT Seattle Transportation Plan, Visioning, funding scenario development
- Now: Polling on funding size and priorities, launch key stakeholder engagement
- Q1 2024: Next steps for Seattle Transportation Plan and draft Levy renewal
- Q1- Q2 2024: Levy renewal rollout for public engagement & feedback



# For Discussion

- Questions about approach and inputs
- Bike Board and Pedestrian Board priorities for the next levy
- Identifying outcomes for bike and pedestrian investments over the next 8 years



Thank you!  
Q&A