

Seattle Transit Measure Renewal Proposal



Seattle Transit Advisory Board – June 3, 2026

Inform you about STM Renewal Proposal

- STM history and achievements
- Proposal development
- Mayor's STM renewal proposal
- Next steps



Seattle Transit Measure (STM) overview

- **Funding:** 0.15% sales tax (\$0.15 on a \$100 purchase); ~\$50M/year
- **Timeframe:** April 2021 - March 2027
- **Investments:** More transit service, ORCA cards for low-income residents, projects to reduce transit delay, streetcar service, emerging needs
- **Approved:** November 2020 by 80% of voters
 - 2020 - STM approved by 80% of Seattle voters
 - 2014 - STBD Prop 1 approved by 62% of Seattle voters; 0.1% sales tax + \$60 vehicle license fee
- **Oversight:** Seattle Transit Advisory Board



STM investments and outcomes

WE



WHICH MEANS THAT



Invest in more transit service in Seattle, focused on equity-priority areas



Provide ORCA cards to low-income residents



Lead transit education programs for youth and aging adults



Fund transit capital projects focused on efficient transit operations and safe access to transit



Respond to emerging transit needs, such as from the COVID-19 pandemic and West Seattle bridge closure



Support Seattle Streetcar service delivery



More people choose to take transit because it is safe, frequent, and reliable, particularly for those who depend on it the most



Low-income residents, youth, and older adults can save money on transit, leaving more for other essential needs



People feel more confident, comfortable, and secure using transit, especially those who rely on it regularly



More people can access their work and daily needs using transit



People in Seattle can adapt to changes in travel patterns caused by unexpected issues

2021-2026 Seattle Transit Measure achievements



850,000 bus service hours;
49% in equity priority areas



52,000 free ORCA cards for low-income residents



Invested \$14M+ in support for regional transit safety initiatives



100+ transit capital projects focused on efficient transit operations and safe access to transit



City staffing for planning, project management, engineering, and permitting for Light Rail Expansion



50+ transit education programs for youth and older adults



Responded to emerging transit needs, like COVID-19 and West Seattle bridge closure



Support for Seattle Streetcar lines

Mayor's STM Renewal Proposal

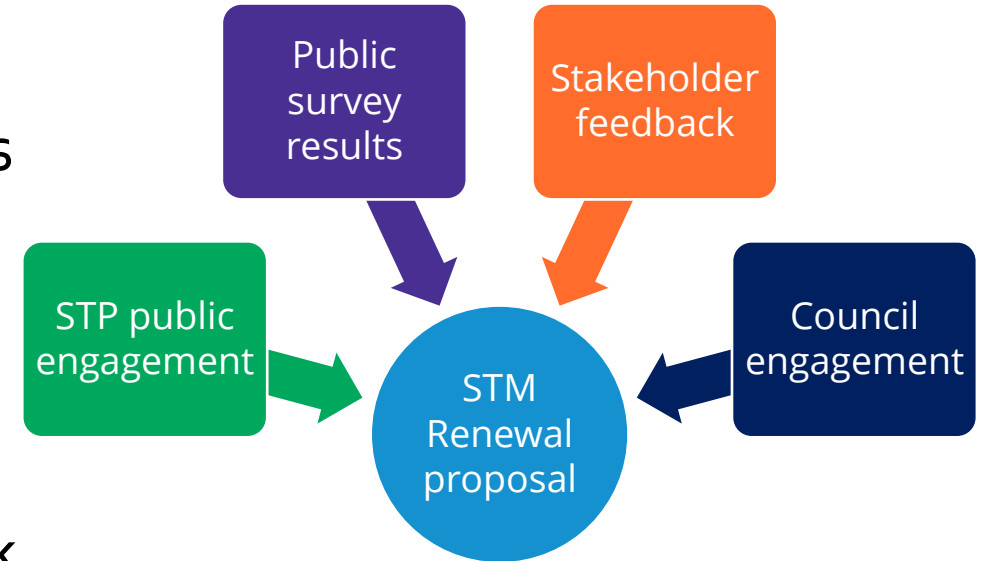
What is driving this proposal?

- ✓ Transit ridership continues to grow, and more people are using transit for non-work trips
- ✓ Better transit makes car ownership a real choice, not a default requirement for mobility
- ✓ Seattleites want mass transit that is fast, frequent, reliable, and affordable



What we heard:

- More frequent bus service, especially at off-peak time (evenings, nights, weekends), in neighborhoods where people rely on transit most, and along east-west routes
- Expand free fare programs for low-income residents and those who rely on transit most
- Make buses more reliable and improve travel times
- Support for connections to expanding light rail network
- Ensure a safe riding environment for riders and drivers
- More transit service and ORCA subsidy programs are the highest-impact strategies for supporting transit-dependent, lower-income communities



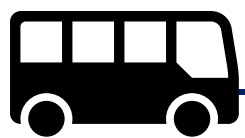
Mayor Wilson's proposal:

Renew the **Seattle Transit Measure** in 2026 as a **0.3%** sales and use tax for **10 years**, delivering on Seattle's commitment to creating a **world-class transit network**

STM renewal components

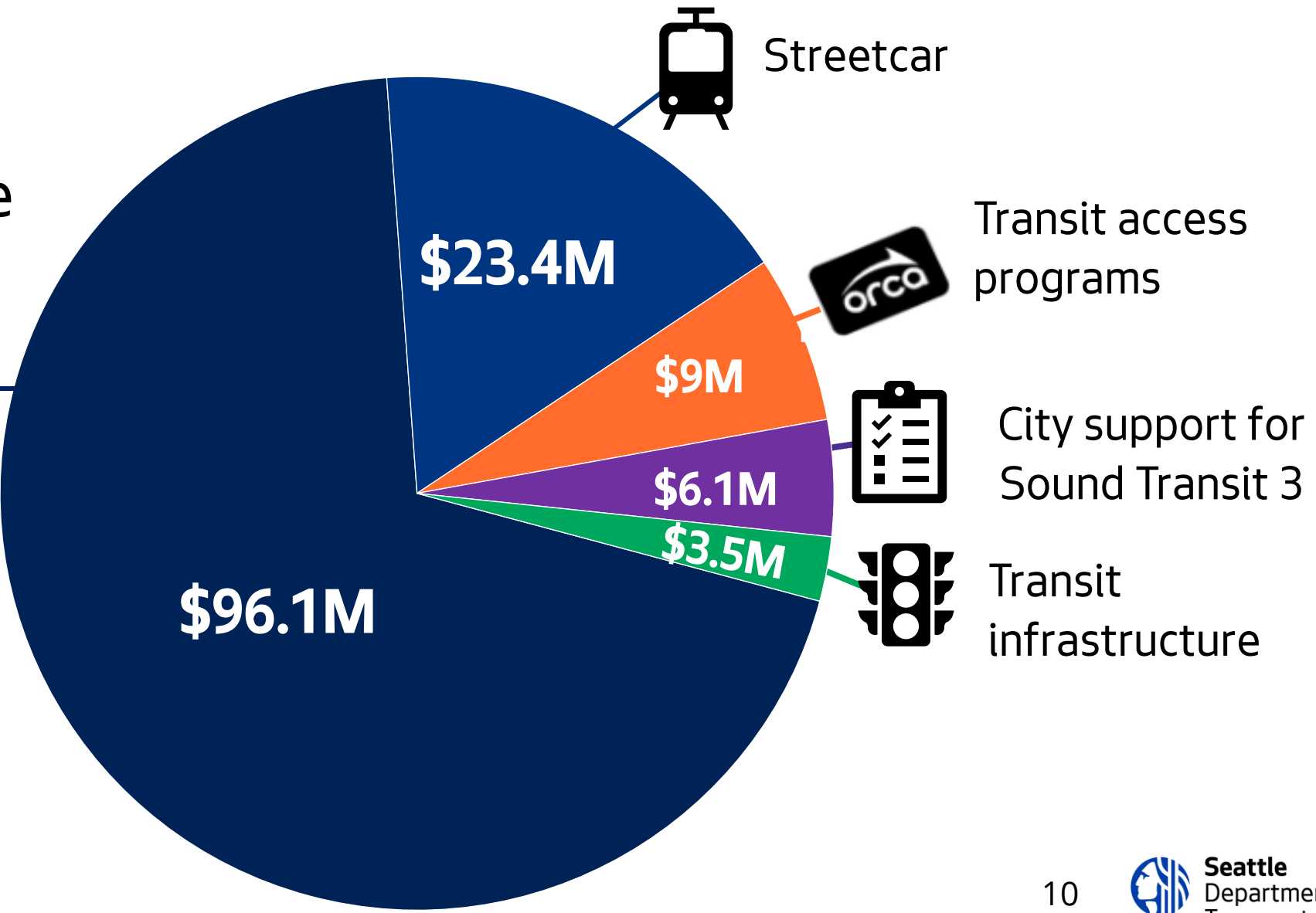
86.5%

for transit service

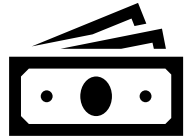


Bus service

Average expected revenue:
\$138 million per year



Benefits and spending



\$58 per year for the typical Seattle household



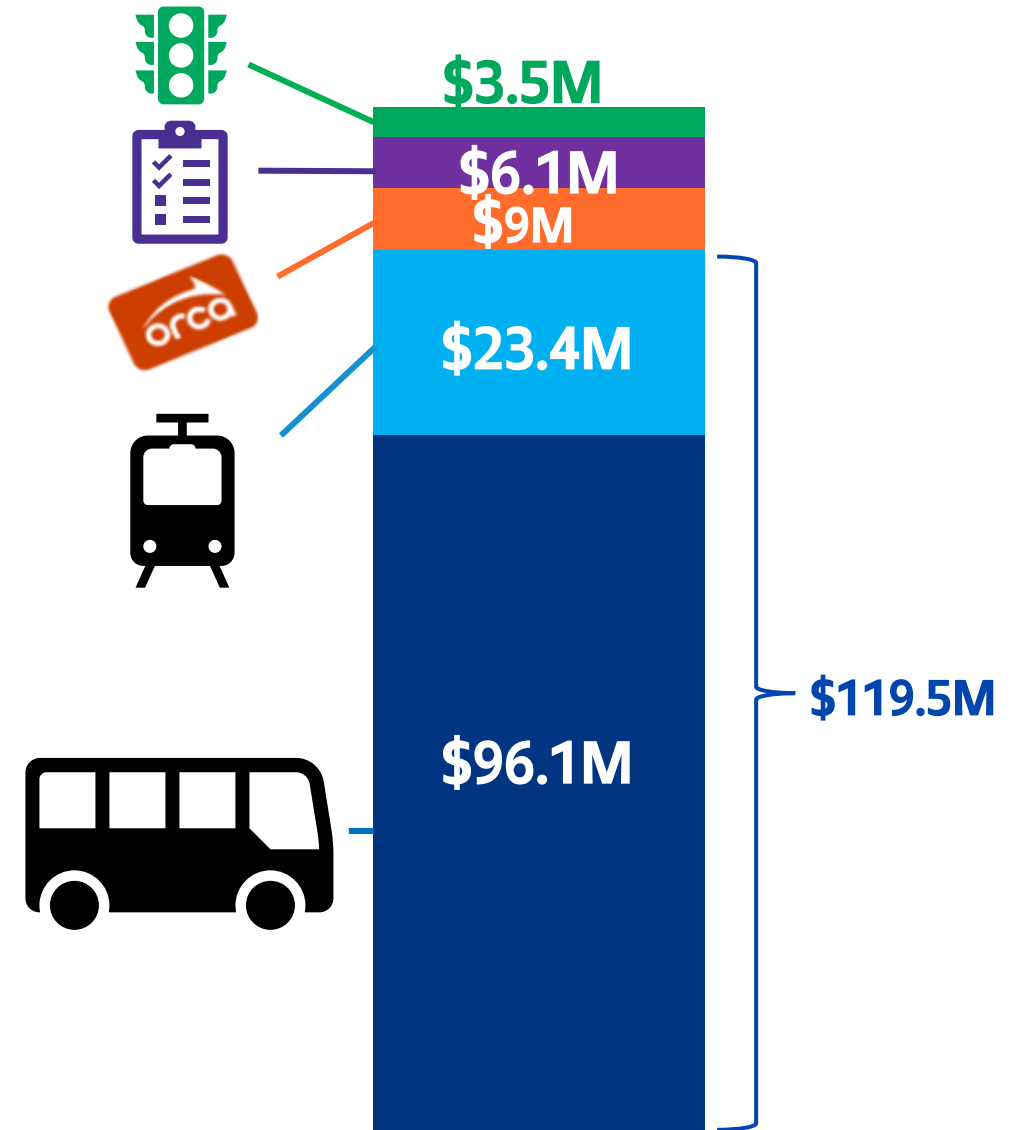
More bus trips on evenings, weekends, and at night



Transit comes more often, travels faster, and is more reliable



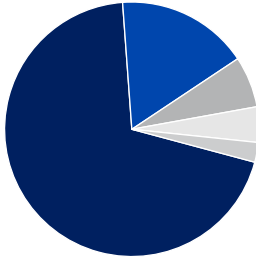
Lower barrier to ride transit for 22,000 people



Keep people moving

\$119.5M per year

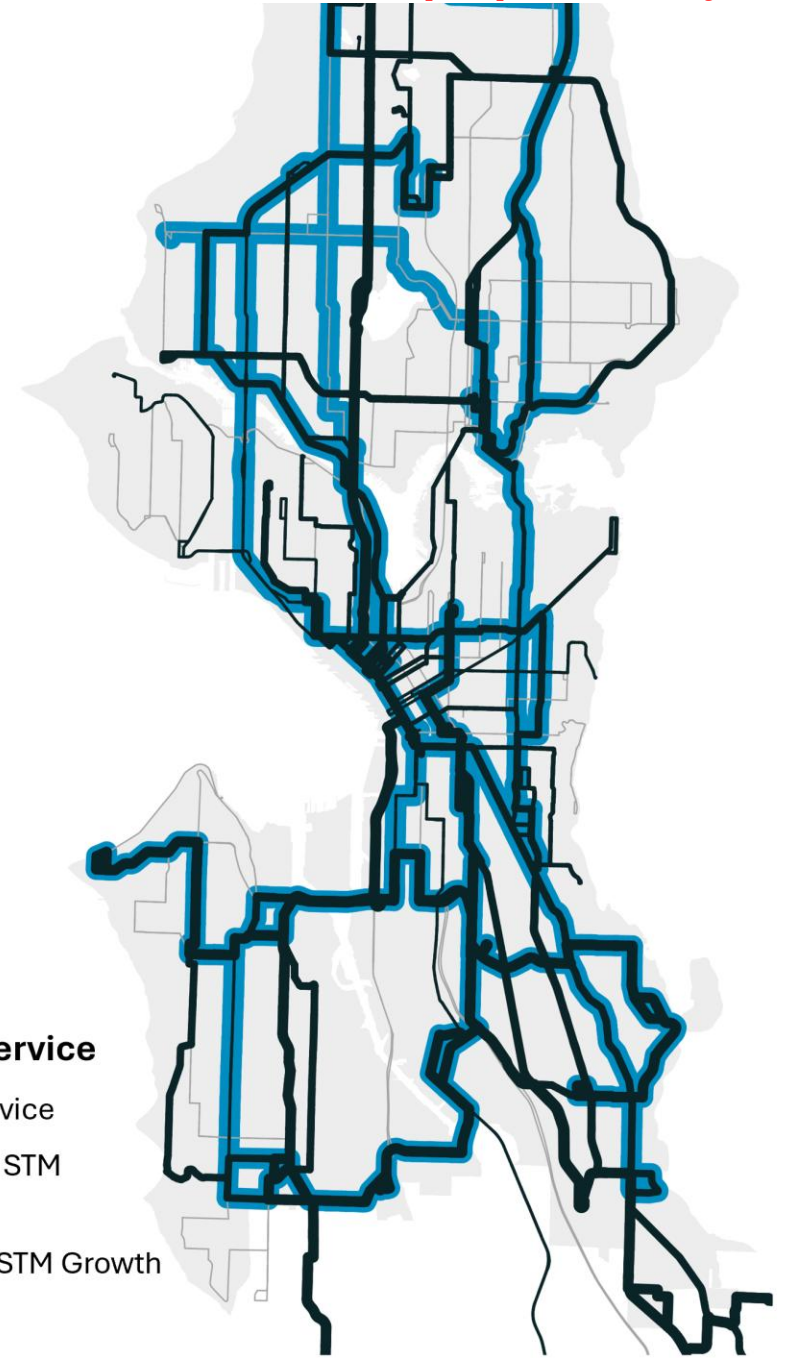
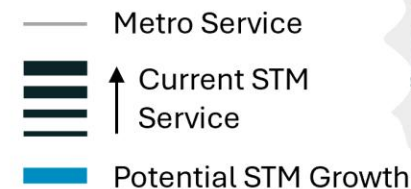
- 280,000 bus trips per year:
 - 100,000 more trips than today
 - 50,000+ more people travel by bus every week
- More reliable, frequent transit service:
 - Consistent schedule 7 days a week
 - Buses come more often evenings, nights, weekends, mid-day
 - Continue investing in Metro's safety/security efforts
 - Fund Seattle Streetcar System



Bus service

- More frequent service during mid-days, evenings, nights, and weekends
- Continue prioritizing transit service for populations that depend on it most
- Improve bus service around areas planned for housing and employment growth
- Strengthen East-West transit service, including connections to light rail

Seattle Bus Service



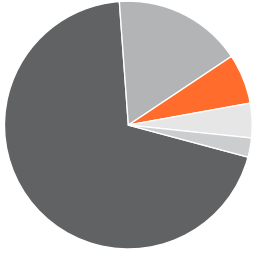
Seattle Streetcar

- Vital connections to local destinations, hospitals, schools, colleges, special event venues
- Increasing ridership: 1.6 million in 2025
 - First Hill Streetcar returned to 2019 ridership
 - South Lake Union ridership grew by 40,000 riders (26%) in 2025
- Both lines serve a higher than average share of zero vehicle households and people of color



Support and expand transit access

\$9M per year



- **Continue providing 10,000 people with fully subsidized ORCA Cards every year:**
 - Seattle Housing Authority (SHA): 6,000 residents
 - Seattle Preschool Program: 2,000 low-income families
 - Seattle Promise Scholars: 1,500+ young adults
- **Expand SHA partnership to 12,000 Housing Choice Voucher participants**
- Continue transit education programming, serving youth and aging adults



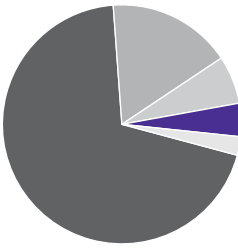
"I hardly ever went anywhere. Because of my ORCA card, I can now get to my doctor's appointments and the stores. As someone who couldn't afford bus fares before, this has really come in handy."

- Seattle Housing Authority Resident

Advance Sound Transit expansion

\$6.1M per year

- Supporting design and delivery of the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extension projects and Graham Street station
- Planning capital projects to improve access to the expanded light rail network for Seattle's transit riders

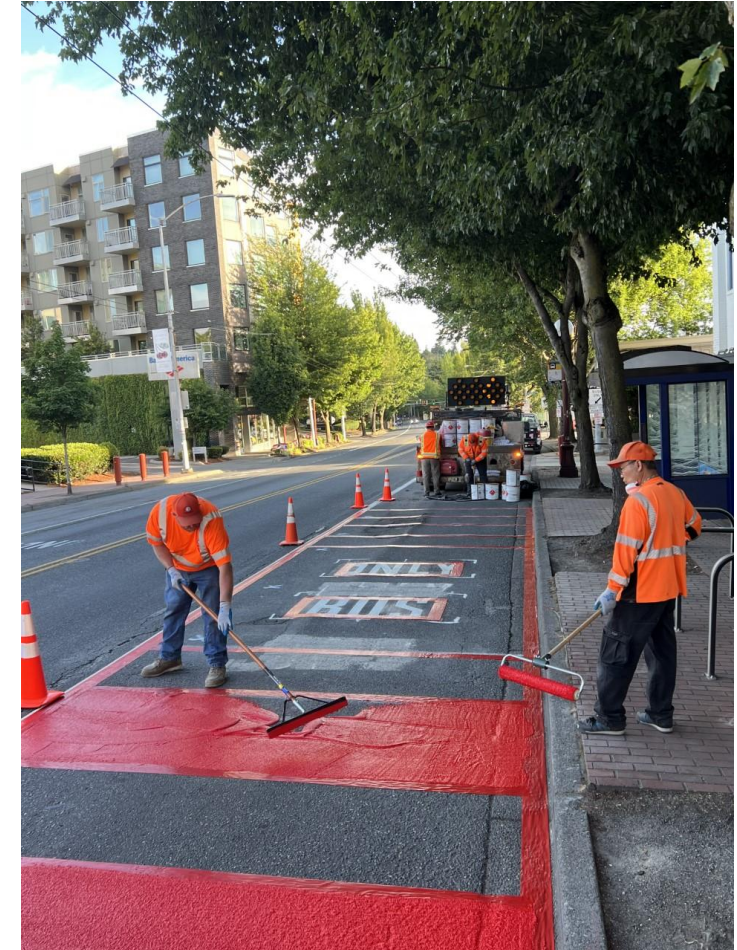
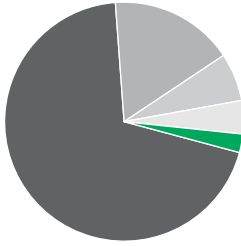


Improve transit infrastructure

\$3.5M per year

Invest in improving transit travel time and reliability projects to:

- Keep transit on schedule
- Support STM transit service investments
- Improve the rider experience traveling to and waiting at transit stops
- 1-2 transit corridor improvements per year



Next steps



STM renewal select committee starts June 4

- Mayor's legislation transmitted: May 27
- Select Committee meetings: June 4, June 18, July 6, July 16
- Public hearings: July 13
 - 9:30am (virtual only)
 - 5pm (in person)
- Full council passage: July 21
- Deadline for King County Elections: August 3



Questions?

Contact: STM@seattle.gov

Visit: www.seattle.gov/transportation/seattle-transit-measure

Visit: www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/transit-program/seattle-transit-measure/renewal