

# Seattle Draft Transportation Levy Proposal

Seattle Transit Advisory Board  
April 24, 2024



# Agenda

- How the transportation levy proposal invests in transit
- Inputs that informed draft levy proposal
- Present current draft transportation levy proposal
- Questions & Discussion



# Draft Transportation Levy Renewal

*Program investments have multiple co-benefits*

**Transportation levies have made critical investments connecting people to transit hubs, improving bus stops, and reducing bus delays**



## Transit Programs

- Improve bus routes with transit-only lanes and special signals at busy intersections
- Improve sidewalks, crossings, bike lanes, and lighting near existing and new light rail stations
- 2 new east-west transit corridors providing access to light rail stations
- 160 projects to improve reliability and safety.

Potential projects include:

- South Lake Union East-West Transit Connections
- Rainier Ave S, S Walden St to S Jackson St Multimodal improvements
- 4th Ave S Busway Design
- Alaska Junction Station Connections
- RapidRide R Line – Rainier Valley Partnership
- S Henderson St Multimodal Improvements

## Other Programs and Projects that Support Transit

- Multimodal corridor projects
- New and upgraded traffic signals
- Vision Zero
- Reliable bridges
- Safety projects for high-collision locations
- Repaved and reconstructed streets
- Improved pedestrian lighting
- Sidewalk construction and repairs
- Community-driven neighborhood street improvements

# Transit Projects and Programs

# Draft Transportation Levy Renewal Proposal

## Summary

- City of Seattle is proposing a **\$1.35 billion property tax levy over 8 years** to build a safe, reliable, and connected Seattle that keeps our growing city moving
- Would renew current Levy to Move Seattle
- Would pave and modernize streets, repair bridges, build sidewalks & safer streets, improve connections to light rail stations & transit, build safe walking, rolling, & biking routes

## Next Steps

- Inviting public input to the draft through April 26
- Will inform the Mayor's final proposal to City Council in May

## Purpose

- Levies are a critical revenue source for transportation and current one is expiring on December 31, 2024
- City's current transportation levy represents roughly 30% of SDOT budget for core services and new projects

## Cost

- Current levy: 9-year, \$930 million Levy to Move Seattle passed in 2015 costs the owner of a median-assessed Seattle house (\$866,000) – about \$24 per month
- Proposed levy renewal: Would cost median homeowner about \$36 per month – \$12 more



# Since 2006, transportation levies have helped SDOT deliver:



**345**

Blocks of  
sidewalks



**442**

Crossing  
improvements



**261**

Safe Routes to  
School projects



**3,019**

Curb ramp  
upgrades



**57**

New  
signals



**332**

Transit spot  
improvements



**509**

Lane miles  
of paving



**4,378**

Bike  
spaces



**57**

Miles of neighborhood  
greenways



**197**

Miles of  
bike lanes



**23**

Bridge  
reinforcements



**9,335**

Trees  
planted





# Inputs to the Draft Transportation Levy Proposal



**Safety Commitment**



**Asset Management  
Strategy**



**Community input**



**Affordability**

# Draft Transportation Levy

## Cost to Taxpayers

For median home with a tax-assessed value of \$866,000:	Levy to Move Seattle	Draft Levy Proposal
Monthly Cost	\$24	\$36
Annual Cost	\$287	\$435
<p>Proposal Mill Rate</p> <p>Approximately \$0.56 per \$1,000 in assessed value</p> <p>\$500,000 home would cost \$250/year <i>(\$7 per month more than today)</i></p> <p>\$1M home would cost \$500/year <i>(\$14 per month more than today)</i></p>		

# Levy Proposal Investments – Examples

- Repave and modernize at least 15 of our busiest streets, improving them for people to walk, roll, bike, and take transit
- Upgrade mechanical systems to keep 3 moveable Ship Canal bridges working reliably
- Launch a preventative bridge maintenance program to keep bridges in a state of good repair
- Support construction of 250 blocks of new sidewalks and repair 34,000 sidewalk defects
- Expand the Neighborhood Street Fund program to build projects requested by communities
- Build 160 projects that improve transit reliability, equity, and safety
- Upgrade 30% of existing protected bike lanes with better bike barriers
- Install more pedestrian lighting in neighborhood business districts and at transit stops





# Vision Zero & School Safety

## CONTEXT

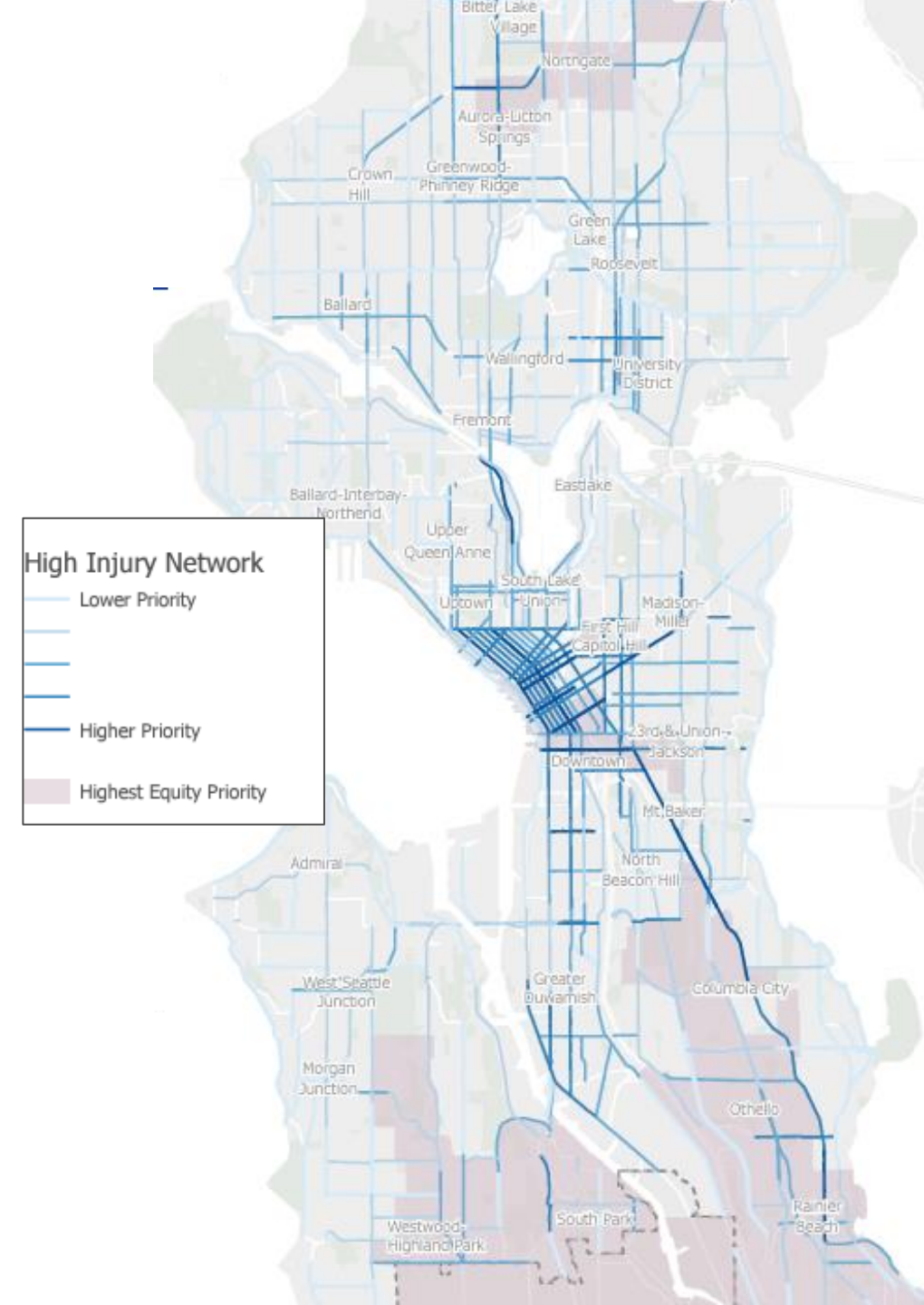
- Vision Zero goals to end deaths and serious injuries on city streets
- Over 10,000 crashes per year
- ~28 fatalities and 180 people seriously injured each year
- Vulnerable travelers account for 53% of people killed

## PROPOSAL

- Invest \$107M for safety upgrades to reduce traffic collisions, severe injuries, and fatalities
- Increase Vision Zero funding by 150%
- Leverage state grant to help modernize Aurora Avenue N

## OUTCOMES

- Substantial safety projects for at least 40 high-collision locations
- Leading pedestrian intervals at 280 intersections
- Safety projects on 12 corridors on the High Injury Network
- Traffic calming treatments on 50 corridors



# Pedestrian Safety

## CONTEXT

- About a quarter of city streets are missing sidewalks – 11,000 blocks

## PROPOSAL

- Invest \$109M to build and repair sidewalks, crossings, and curb ramps so people walking and rolling can safely get to where they need to go

## OUTCOMES

- Construction of 250 blocks of new sidewalks, fostering accessible walking and rolling connections to transit and schools
- Support for construction of 10,000 accessible curb ramps
- 34,000 spot repairs on buckled and damaged sidewalks
- 9 stairway repairs to connect our hilly neighborhoods





# Bicycle Safety

## CONTEXT

- Not all areas of the city are equally served by protected bike lane network
- We're working to serve all public schools with an all ages and ability bike facility

## PROPOSAL

- Invest \$94M to improve and expand Seattle's bike network
- Connect schools to bike lanes and neighborhood greenways
- Maintain and upgrade existing protected bike lanes so more people can ride bikes

## OUTCOMES

- Bike lane connections for gaps in the network
- New and upgraded bikeways in equity priority areas
- Bicycle connections for all ages and abilities with 5 new or expanded neighborhood greenways on residential streets
- 30% of existing protected bike lanes upgraded with concrete bike barriers
- Maintenance program for existing bike lanes with regular sweeping and barrier repair





# Major Street Maintenance

## CONTEXT

- Streets carry over 900,000 vehicle trips daily, which damages pavement over time especially on the busiest streets
- When we repave streets, we can make other improvements for all travelers in the corridor

## PROPOSAL

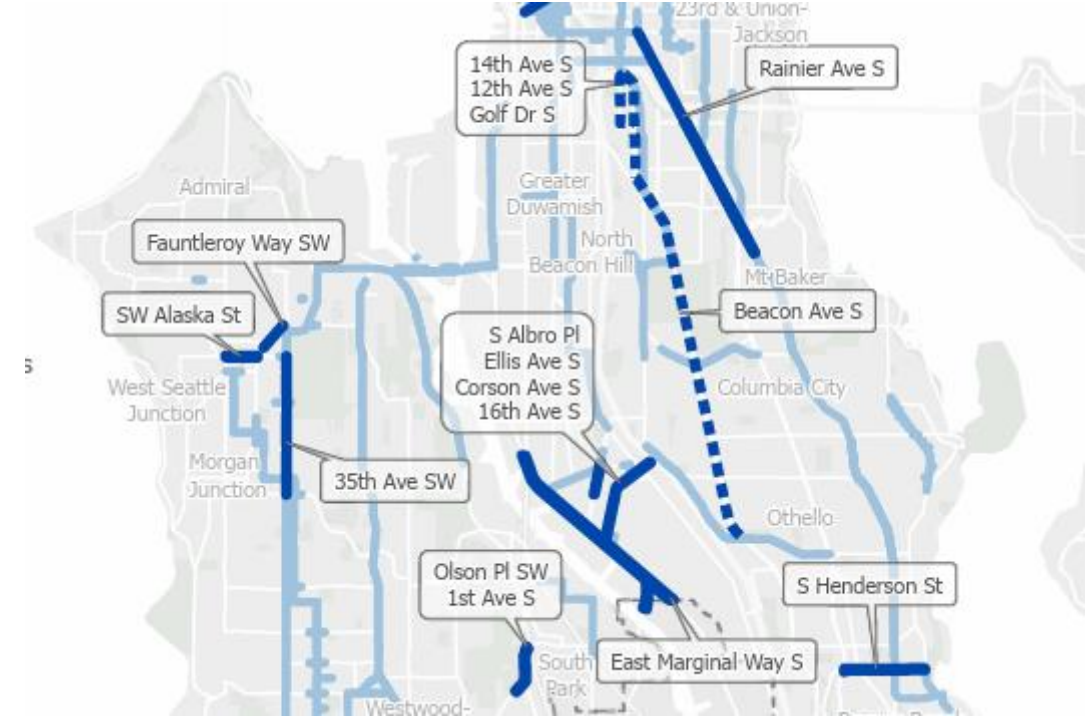
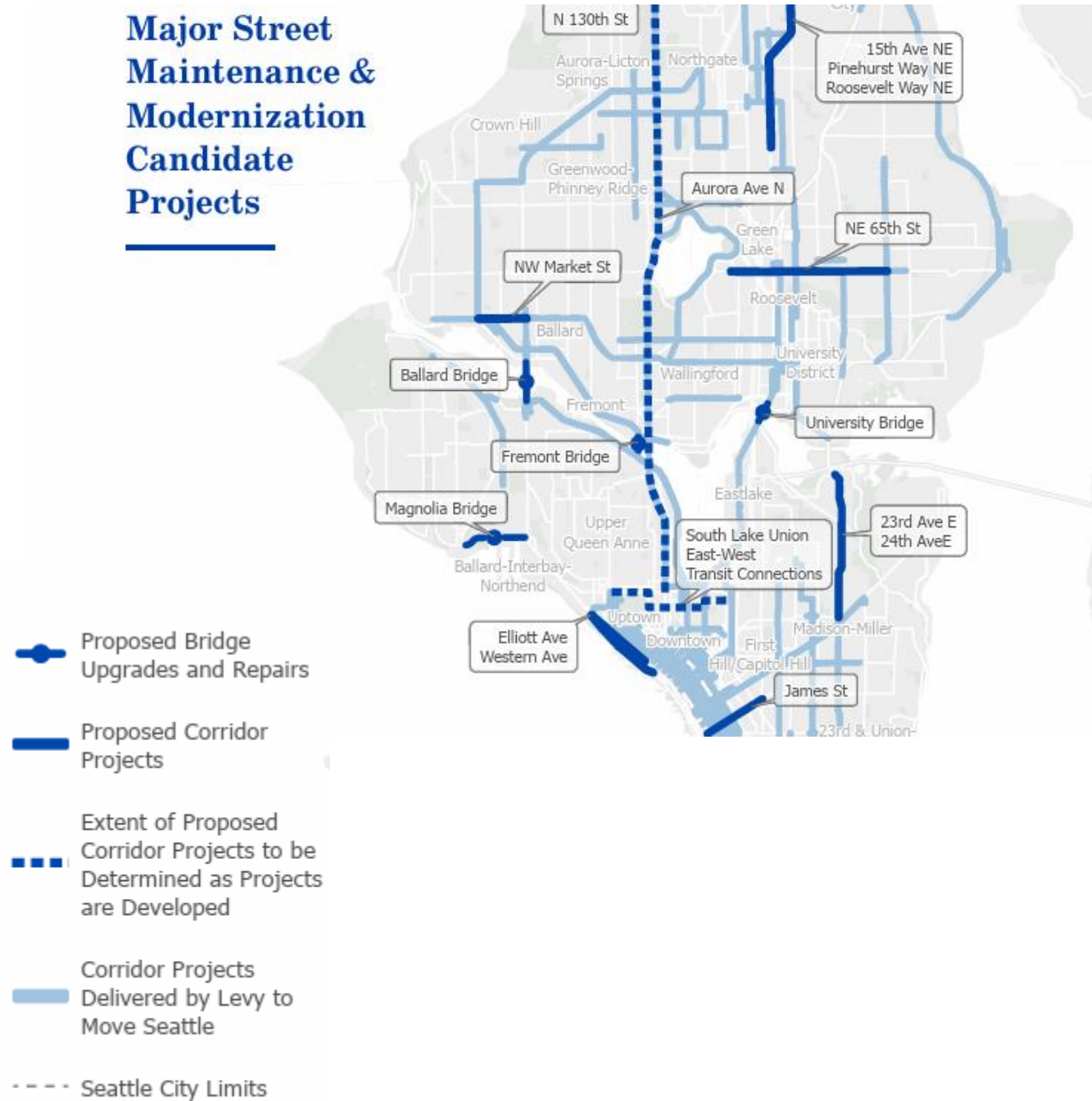
- Invest \$423M to repave and improve Seattle's busiest streets carrying the most buses and trucks
- Build better connections for people walking, rolling, biking, taking transit, and moving goods

## OUTCOMES

- Reported potholes filled within 72 hours
- Paving on 38% of the busiest blocks where streets are in poor condition
- 50 lane-miles of spot paving repair and paving on arterial streets at approximately 400 locations
- 9 full-depth street reconstructions with improvements for all modes of travel
- 5 preventative maintenance paving corridor projects



## Major Street Maintenance & Modernization Candidate Projects





# Bridges and Structures

## CONTEXT

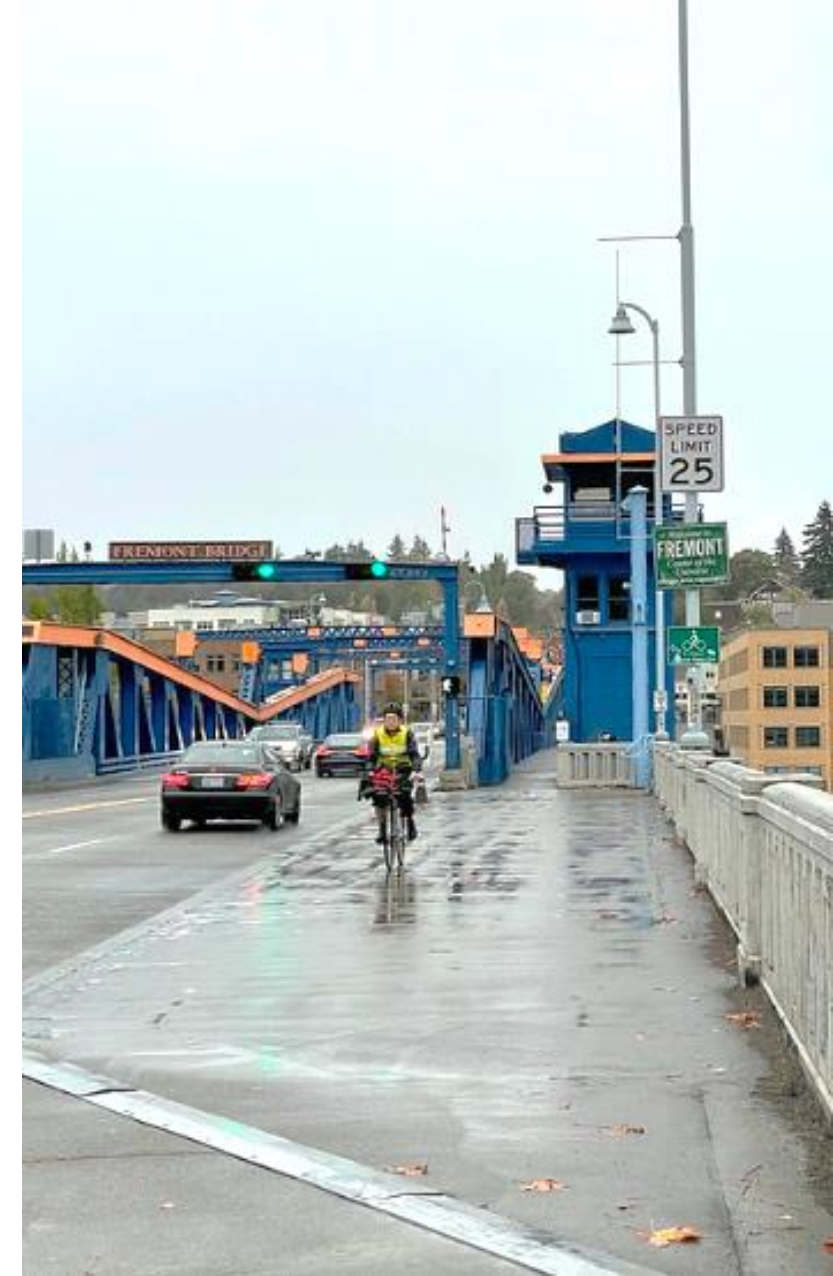
- Moveable bridges open more than 14,000 times a year, and 3 of them are over 100 years old

## PROPOSAL

- Invest \$218M to keep bridges in good working condition and prepare for future projects
- Launch a new preventative bridge maintenance program to make the right treatment at the right time
- Make structural repairs on the Ballard and Magnolia bridges

## OUTCOMES

- Upgraded electrical and mechanical systems on 3 moveable Ship Canal bridges: Ballard Bridge, Fremont Bridge, and the University Bridge
- Preventative bridge maintenance program to meet optimal repair schedules
- Up to 5 selected bridges and structures prepared for future replacement
- Monitoring and improvements to areaways, the underground spaces in Pioneer Square where goods move between the sidewalk and building basements





# Transit Corridors and Connections

## CONTEXT

- More than 150,000 people ride the bus or train in Seattle each day
- Approximately 20% of Seattle households do not own a car

## PROPOSAL

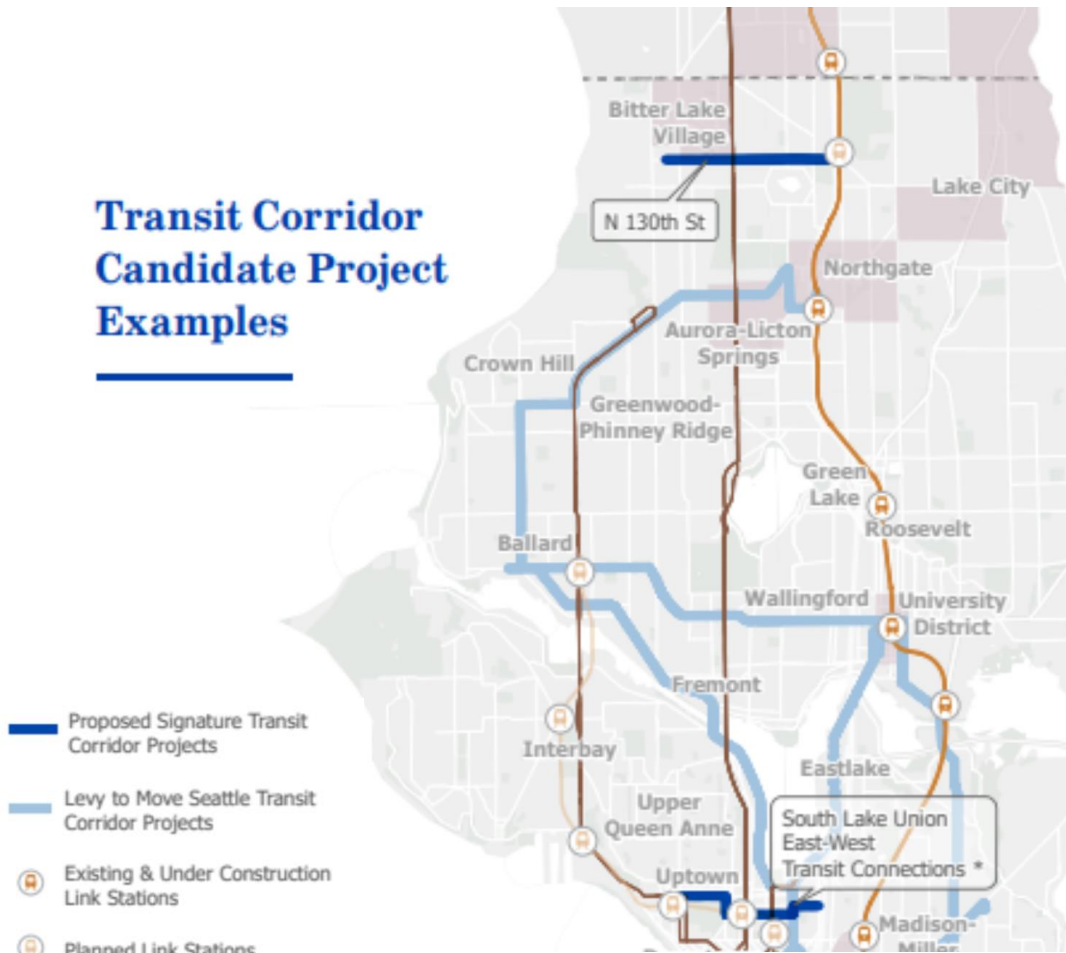
- Invest \$121M to connect people safely and reliably to transit hubs
- Support King County Metro's proposed RapidRide R Line – Rainier project
- Improve connections to new and existing Link light rail stations

## OUTCOMES

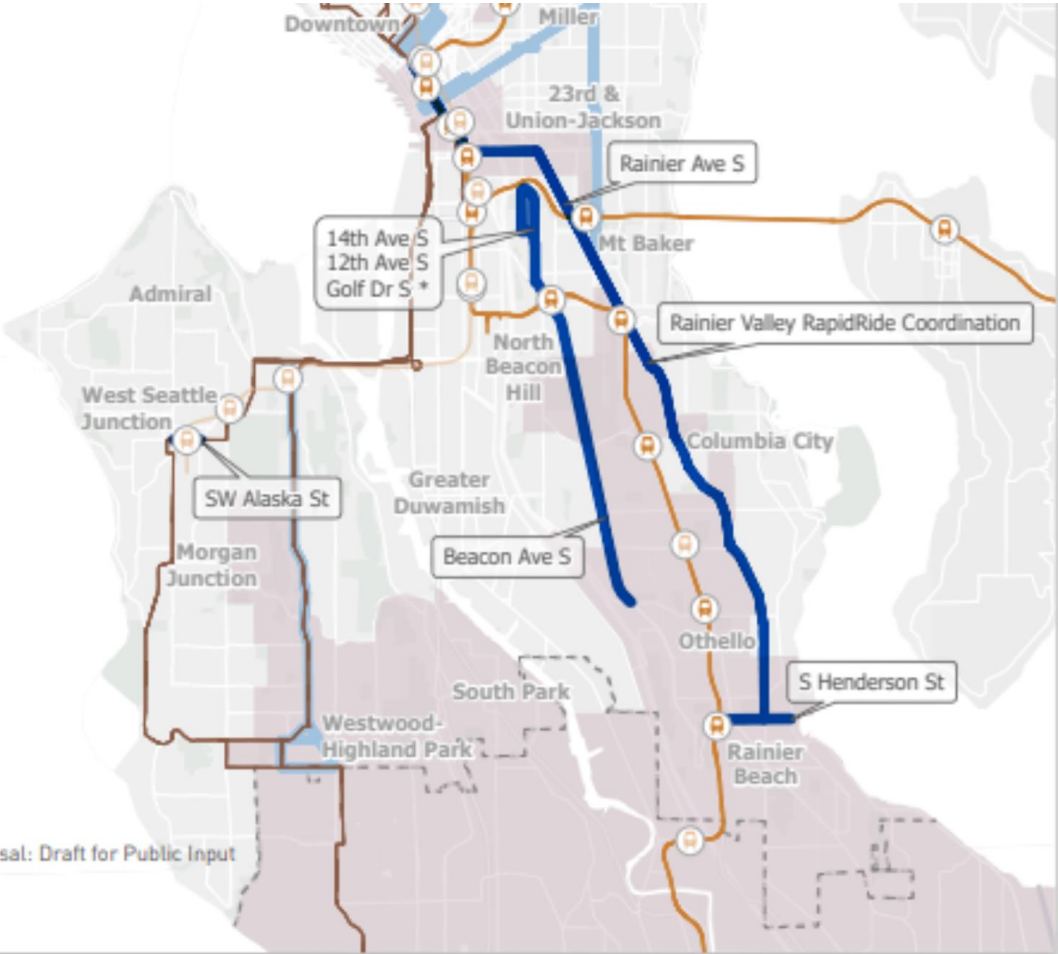
- Reliability improvements on 2 high-ridership bus routes in equity priority areas (routes 7 and 36)
- 2 new east-west transit corridors providing access to new light rail stations at N 130<sup>th</sup> St and Alaska Junction
- 160 projects, such as transit-only lanes or special signals at busy intersections, to improve reliability on the busiest routes



# Transit Corridor Candidate Project Examples



\* Specific paving areas will be determined as the projects are developed.





# Signals & Operations

## CONTEXT

- We have over 1,100 signalized intersections
- Modern signals and cabinets allow for accessibility improvements and remote signal timing changes

## PROPOSAL

- Invest \$100M to upgrade traffic signal technology and reliability for multimodal access, large events, and trips in and out of Seattle's ports

## OUTCOMES

- Adjusted signal timing on 40 corridors to work better for all travelers
- 4-5 intelligent transportation system pilot projects
- 10 new modernized traffic signals
- Quick responses to incidents with 24/7 staffing of Seattle's Transportation Operations Center
- Over 5,500 replaced signs to make it easy for people to find their way
- Accessible pedestrian signals added at 50 crossings





# Freight & Goods Movement

## CONTEXT

- Seattle Transportation Plan key move to support access to jobs, freight movement, and growth in deliveries

## PROPOSAL

- Invest \$25M for improvements to support trucks delivering goods and providing services
- Improve corridors and bridges that trucks use when traveling to and from Port of Seattle facilities and between the city's manufacturing and industrial centers

## OUTCOMES

- Repairs on 20% of major truck streets in poor condition
- 32 freight spot improvements such as intersection and signal timing upgrades
- Partnership paving projects with the Port of Seattle to improve the streets that carry the heaviest vehicles



# Climate & Resiliency

## CONTEXT

- SDOT Climate Change Response Framework
- In Seattle, 61% of harmful emissions come from transportation
- City climate goal is to increase Seattle's tree canopy to at least 30% by 2037

## PROPOSAL

- Invest \$49M to directly address climate change in addition to mode shift,
- Make the air cleaner in neighborhoods most affected by pollution and make sustainable transportation options more accessible

## OUTCOMES

- Partnerships that help electrify our transportation system, encourage e-bike programs, and improve electric vehicle charging options
- Strategies for up to 3 low-pollution neighborhoods, including low-emissions goods delivery in areas most impacted by climate change and pollution
- Expansion of tree species diversity and maintenance of our existing urban forest
- Trees planted in neighborhoods that historically have had less investment in tree planting and care





# Neighborhood Street Improvements

## CONTEXT

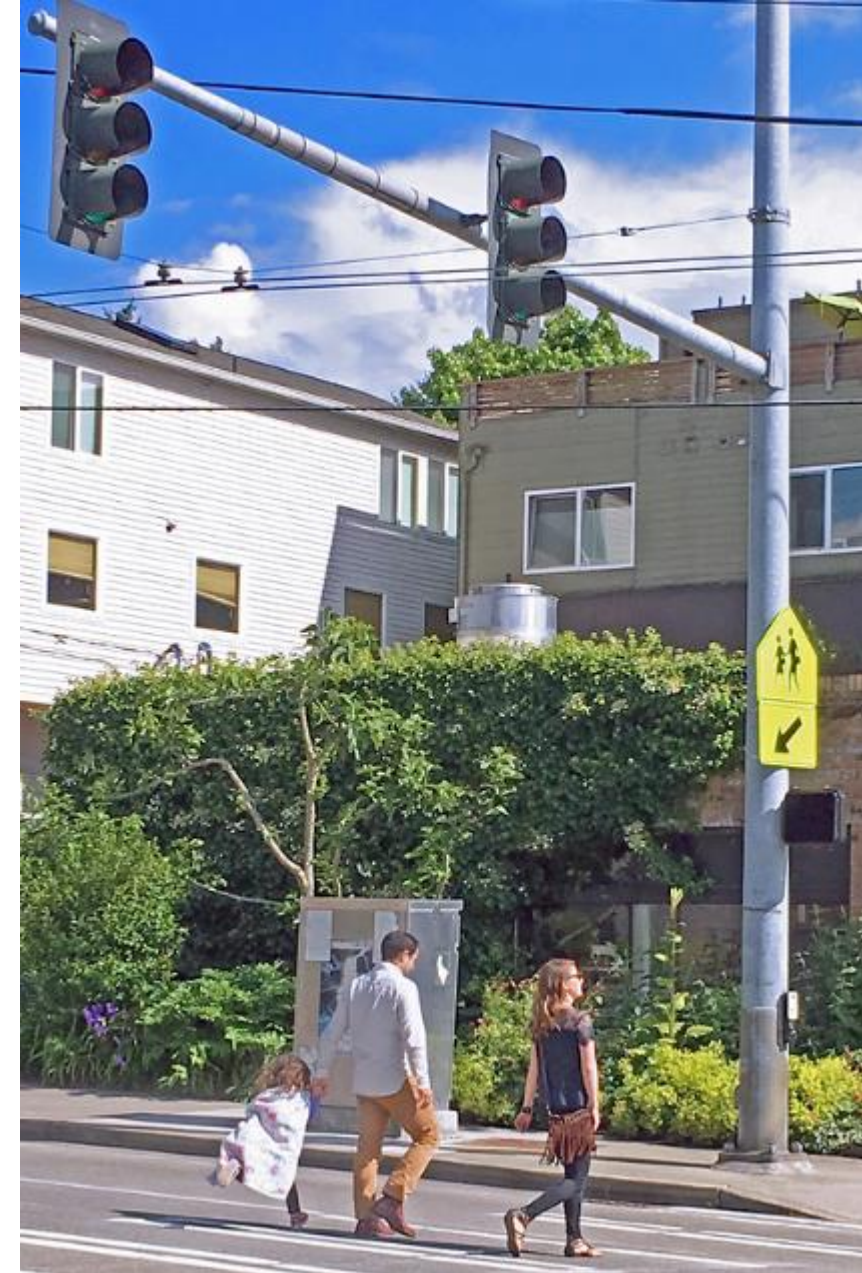
- SDOT Transportation Equity Framework recommends bringing more community input into the projects SDOT delivers

## PROPOSAL

- Invest \$48M to build projects that are co-created with community, focusing on neighborhoods with historical underinvestment

## OUTCOMES

- Build projects requested by community members like new sidewalks, crossings, transit accessibility improvements, public art, and more
- Form enduring relationships with specific neighborhoods and communities in equity priority areas to identify and build transportation improvements they need most





# People Streets and Public Spaces

## CONTEXT

- Seattle Transportation Plan calls for a vibrant and safe city where the streets, sidewalks and public spaces hum with social and economic activity.

## PROPOSAL

- \$57M to make public spaces more inviting so people can enjoy unique and vibrant neighborhoods and business districts
- Invest in maintenance, lighting, wayfinding, and activation to support Downtown revitalization









## OUTCOMES

- 8 transformed public spaces with redesigned streets, seating, wayfinding, lighting, and activation, including lighting at transit plazas and stops
- Dozens of spot improvements and pilot projects with a focus on equity priority areas
- Maintenance and ongoing activation support for public spaces citywide



# Draft Transportation Levy Renewal

*Program investments have multiple co-benefits*

	 SAFETY	 PEOPLE WALKING	 PEOPLE BIKING	 TRANSIT RIDERS	 CLIMATE	 NEIGHBORHOODS	 DOWNTOWN	 FREIGHT
Repave and improve streets (\$423M)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Bridge Maintenance (\$218M)	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Improve transit connections (\$121M)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Build and repair sidewalks (\$109M)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Reduce traffic collisions (\$107M)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Install and maintain traffic signals (\$100M)	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Expand bike lane network (\$94M)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Add lighting and activate public spaces (\$57M)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Address climate change (\$49M)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Build projects with community (\$48M)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Make freight improvements (\$25M)	✓						✓	✓

# Timeline Overview





# Ways to Engage

Levy Renewal Proposal is available for public feedback through April 26. The City of Seattle invites people to read and engage with the proposal in numerous ways.

## Public engagement:

- Visit the online engagement hub in 9 languages
- Email us at [MoveSeattle@seattle.gov](mailto:MoveSeattle@seattle.gov)
- Visit our website at [seattle.gov/transportation/levy](https://seattle.gov/transportation/levy)



# Thank you

## Q&A

