

Seattle Transportation Levy Oversight Committee

August 2025



Agenda

5-5:10pm: Welcome; Public Comment

5:10-5:20pm: Meeting Overview; Questions from the Last Meeting

5:20-6:00pm: SDOT Presentation on Levy Portfolio Management

6:00pm-6:50pm: Discussion on Transparency and Accountability

6:50pm-7:00pm: Wrap Up and Look-Ahead to Next Meetings

Public Comment



Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Learn about how SDOT manages and plans for the \$1.55 billion Seattle Transportation Levy portfolio
- Understand ways you can learn about levy performance
- Begin to develop shared understanding of transparency and accountability

What we are hoping you'll do today

- Ask questions!
- In this context, share what transparency and accountability mean to you and how you'd like it to show up in the LOC
- Begin thinking about how you can use this information to fulfill your LOC role



City Staff Introductions

**Mayor's
Office**

**Armand
Shahbazian**


**Director's
Office**

Chief of Staff, Government Relations,
Equity, Communications

Dan Anderson

Megan Hoyt



Finance &
Administration

Chris Godwin

Darby DuComb



Capital
Projects

Joanna Hankamer

Answering questions from last meeting

- Thank you for filling out the reflection surveys in your onboarding materials!
- If you have not, please fill out by August 31.
- We will aim to answer as many of the questions posed in those surveys as we can, both in this and future meetings.

How SDOT manages and plans for the \$1.55 billion Seattle Transportation Levy portfolio

Project and Program Delivery

Reminder: What is the Levy Annual Delivery Plan?



2025 Annual Delivery Plan



Published January 31, 2025

- ✓ Public document which you reviewed as part of your July onboarding
- ✓ Shows a list of work funded with Seattle Transportation Levy dollars that SDOT expects to progress in that year
- ✓ Includes how much funding is appropriated to each program area

Levy Delivery Plan

Appendix A: Estimated 2025 Levy Investments

1: Vision Zero, School and Neighborhood Safety: Make targeted and community-requested improvements to streets, sidewalks, intersections, and crossings to reduce traffic collisions, severe injuries, and fatalities.		
Program	Cumulative Estimated Levy Investments	2025 Estimated Levy Investments
Vision Zero	<p>(1.1) Safety redesign projects on up to 12 corridors on the High Injury Network</p> <p>(1.3) Leading pedestrian intervals at 280 intersections</p> <p>(1.4) Traffic calming on 50 corridors</p> <p>Anticipated initial Vision Zero projects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aurora Ave N • N/NE 85th St • S Othello St • N 105th St/Holman Rd NW • Dexter Ave N • Lake City Way NE • 4th Ave S • MLK Jr Way S • Rainier Ave S • Lakeside Ave S at Lake Washington Blvd • N/NE 50th St • Other projects as identified in Vision Zero work plans 	<p>(1.1) VISION ZERO CORRIDOR PROJECTS ON HIGH INJURY NETWORKS</p> <p>Start Construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S Henderson St Safety Corridor <p>Start Design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainier Ave S Safety Corridor (North Segment) • Renton Ave S Safety Corridor <p>Start Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12th Ave S Safety Corridor • S Jackson St Safety Corridor • S Othello St/S Myrtle St Safety Corridor • Spring St Safety Corridor <p>(1.2) HIGH-COLLISION SAFETY PROJECTS</p> <p>Start Construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Ave S and S Spokane St • 5th Ave and Marion St • 5th Ave and Pike St • E Marginal Way S and S Dawson St (Phase 1) • NE Northgate Way and 1st Ave NE • Broadway and E Pike St • Broadway and E Union St • Burke-Gilman Trail and 30th Ave NE • Eastlake Ave E and Fuhrman Ave E • Harvard Ave and E Pike St

Program

Projects

What informs the Levy Annual Delivery Plan?



- Delivering a Levy-funded project requires constant coordination
- The larger or more complex the project, the more coordination is required and the more risks it faces to its schedule, cost, etc.

Contractor vs. Crew-Delivered Projects

	Contractor-Delivered	Crew-Delivered
Project cost	\$150,000 or more (legal requirement)	Any maintenance work; new capital projects under \$150,000
Who constructs	Contractors hired by SDOT	SDOT staff
Level and type of community outreach/engagement	Multiyear structured engagement process; multiple opportunities for feedback about project elements in addition to informing during construction	Varies; shorter effort focused on engaging community about the project prior to and during construction
Length of time project takes (from project definition to project completion)	2 to 5+ years <i>(Construction could be several months to 3+ years)</i>	Several months to several years <i>(Construction could be as short as 1 day up to several months)</i>
Complexity	Higher	Lower
Level of risk to project schedule	Higher	Lower
Example of type of projects	Large repaving project Some protected bike lanes	Sidewalk safety repair Neighborhood Greenways

Levy Delivery - Small Project Example



Program: Pothole Repairs

Program Area: Street Maintenance and Modernization

- Projects identified through customer service requests
- Routine work
- Most filled within 72 hours
- Completed in one day
- Lower cost

Levy Delivery - Medium Project Example



Program: Paving Spot Repair

Program Area: Street Maintenance and Modernization

- Projects identified through known need/street or pavement condition, customer request, known priority due to how street is used (such as for transit or freight vehicles)
- Increased design complexity and coordination
- Projects are planned in a given year to be completed for the following year
- Completed across one or several days

Levy Delivery - Large Project Example

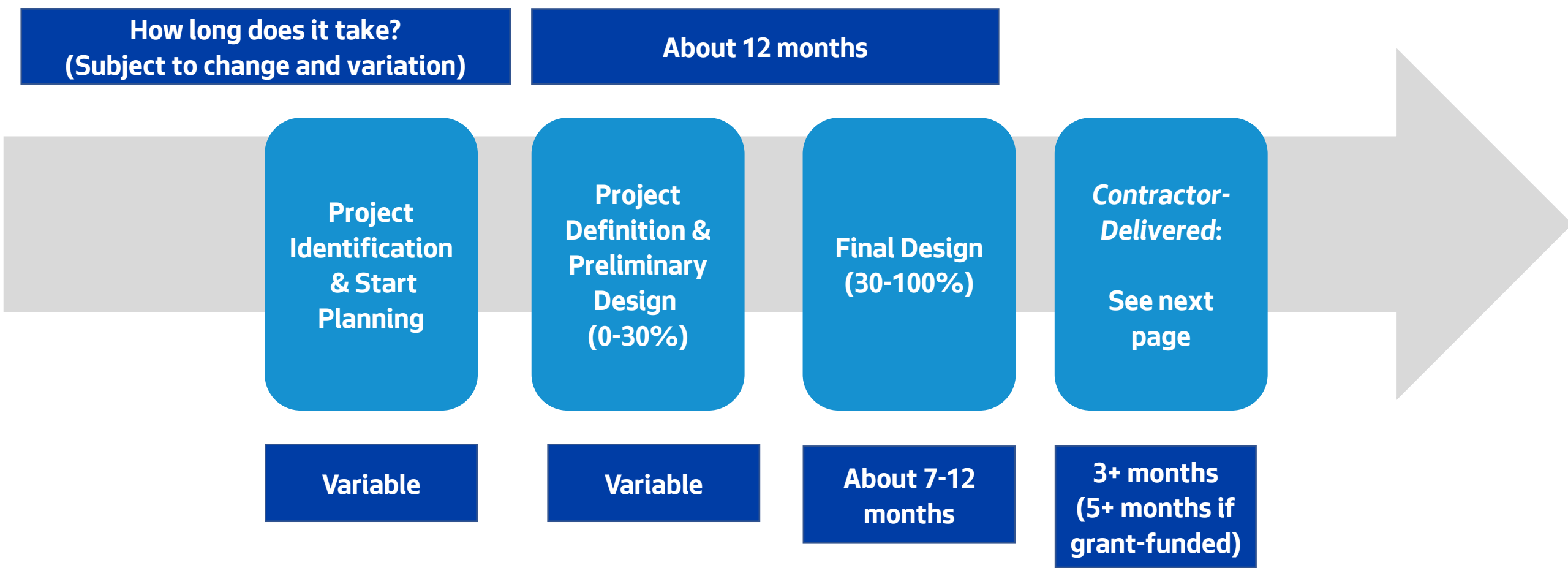


Program: Street Repaving and Design

Program Area: Street Maintenance and Modernization

- Projects identified through Seattle Transportation Plan and previously, other master plans; known partnership opportunities
- Projects planned and designed over several years
- Constructed over several years (sometimes over 7 years from project conception to completion)
- To minimize repeated impacts to nearby community, often combined with Seattle Public Utilities and/or Seattle City Light projects such as water main replacement or underground utility work

Project Delivery Process



You have reviewed a version of this information as part of your onboarding.

Contractor-Delivered Project - Advertisement to Construction Start Process

How long does it take?
(Subject to change and variation)

About 4+ months

Advertisement

Bid
Opening

Bids opened
& analyzed

Award

Review
bidder
qualifications

Request to
Award

Execution

Contract
documents
signed

3-5 weeks

1 month

2-3 weeks

Contractor
submittals
and baseline
schedule

Speed types
created

Internal
construction
kick-off
meeting

Pre-
construction
meeting

Construction
Start

1 month



Questions?

How SDOT manages and plans for the \$1.55 billion Seattle Transportation Levy portfolio

Managing Revenues and Spending

For larger projects, often the budget is not equal to the spending forecast

Adopted Budget

New appropriation for a program in current year



Carryforward

Unspent budget from prior year now available in the current year

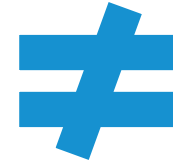


Revised Budget

(may contain budget supplements)

Total funding available for a program during the year

Includes **revenues** from Levy property tax collection, other local funding, and any leveraged funds (i.e. grants)



Spending Forecast

How much of the funding we expect to **spend** in that year

Can be more or less than the **Budget**

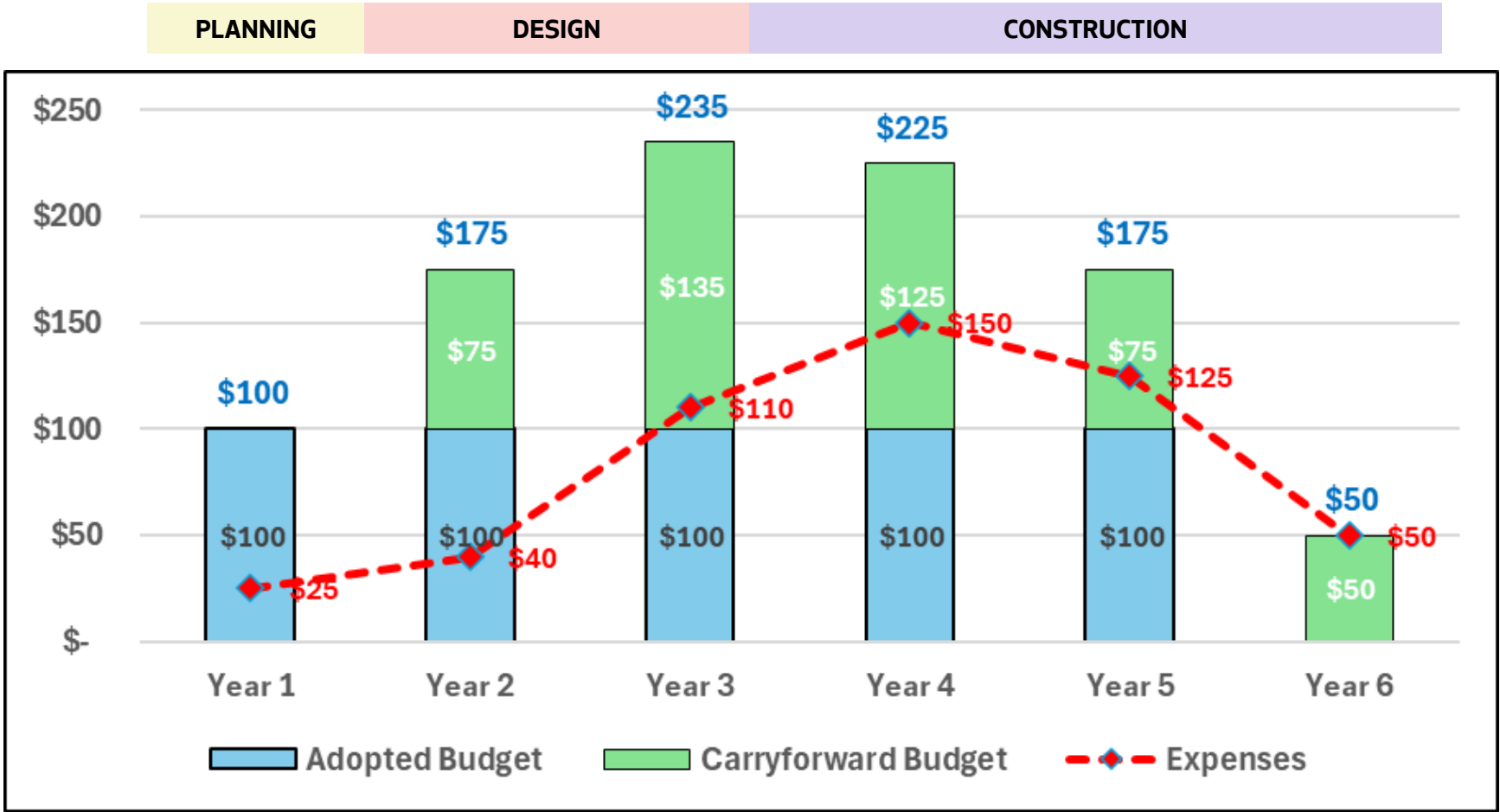
It is normal to not spend the exact amount of the budget in a given year for our larger projects

What types of projects are likely to have differences between revenues and spending?

- We receive funding on a regular schedule - \$190M annually in levy revenues, for example.
- However, project spending varies year to year depending on the current phase (**planning/design/construction**).
- **Projects with higher risks to schedules**, such as contractor delivered capital projects, vs. operations/maintenance work (sidewalk repairs, bridge repairs, etc.) are more likely to see variation.

What if we have budget leftover at the end of the year?

Example of relationship between adopted/carryforward budget in a single project
Scenario - Program receives \$500 over 5 years (\$100/year)



Total Annual Budget =
Adopted + Carryforward

In years when expenses are **greater** than adopted budget (Years 3-6), carryforward **decreases** the following year.

In years when expenses are **less** than adopted budget (Year 1-2), carryforward **increases** the following year.

Goals of Managing Levy Project Delivery

We can...



Identify and respond
to risks, issues, and
changes confidently &
quickly



Align incoming Levy
revenues with project
delivery schedules



Track Levy delivery
status and make
adjustments
as needed



Plan resources
efficiently



Improve our
processes to better
plan and track
progress on Levy
delivery



Report progress to
the public

In summary, we hope you feel more informed about:

- **How projects get planned for, delivered, and reported on, so you know:**
 - How we stay on track and address unexpected issues
 - How we track progress towards commitments to voters
- **The varying costs, timelines, and level of risk associated with projects, so you know:**
 - Why projects may get delayed or cost more than expected
 - When to be concerned about project delivery, and when changes can be expected

What questions do you have?

**How can you can use this information to
fulfill your LOC role?**

Discussion: Transparency and Accountability

Current ways we focus on transparency and accountability

How do we collect data and report on Levy-funded work?

We:

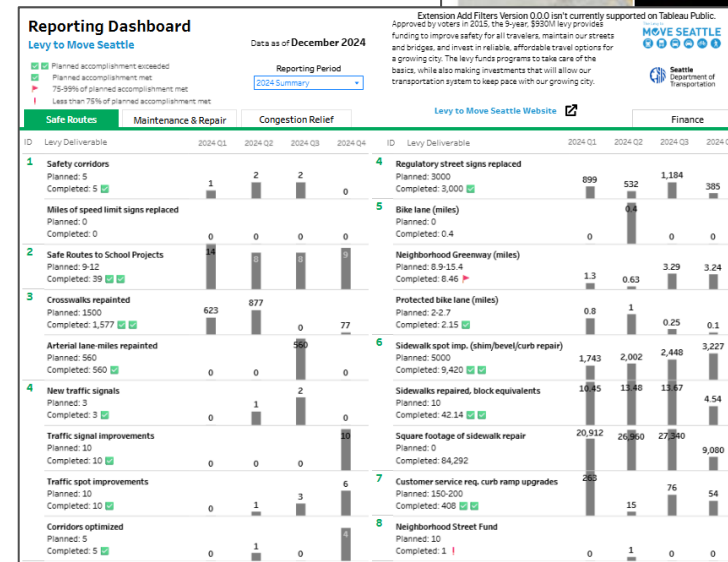
- Collect list of what deliverables were completed each quarter
- Will update reporting dashboard annually with list of deliverables & produce annual reports

(you will learn more about the dashboard in a future meeting)

- Highlight levy achievements across channels including blog posts, email newsletters, social media, and press releases

East Marginal Way S upgrades include new bike lanes for safer travel, while keeping freight moving – check out our progress

by Ethan Bancroft on March 13, 2025



Department of Transportation

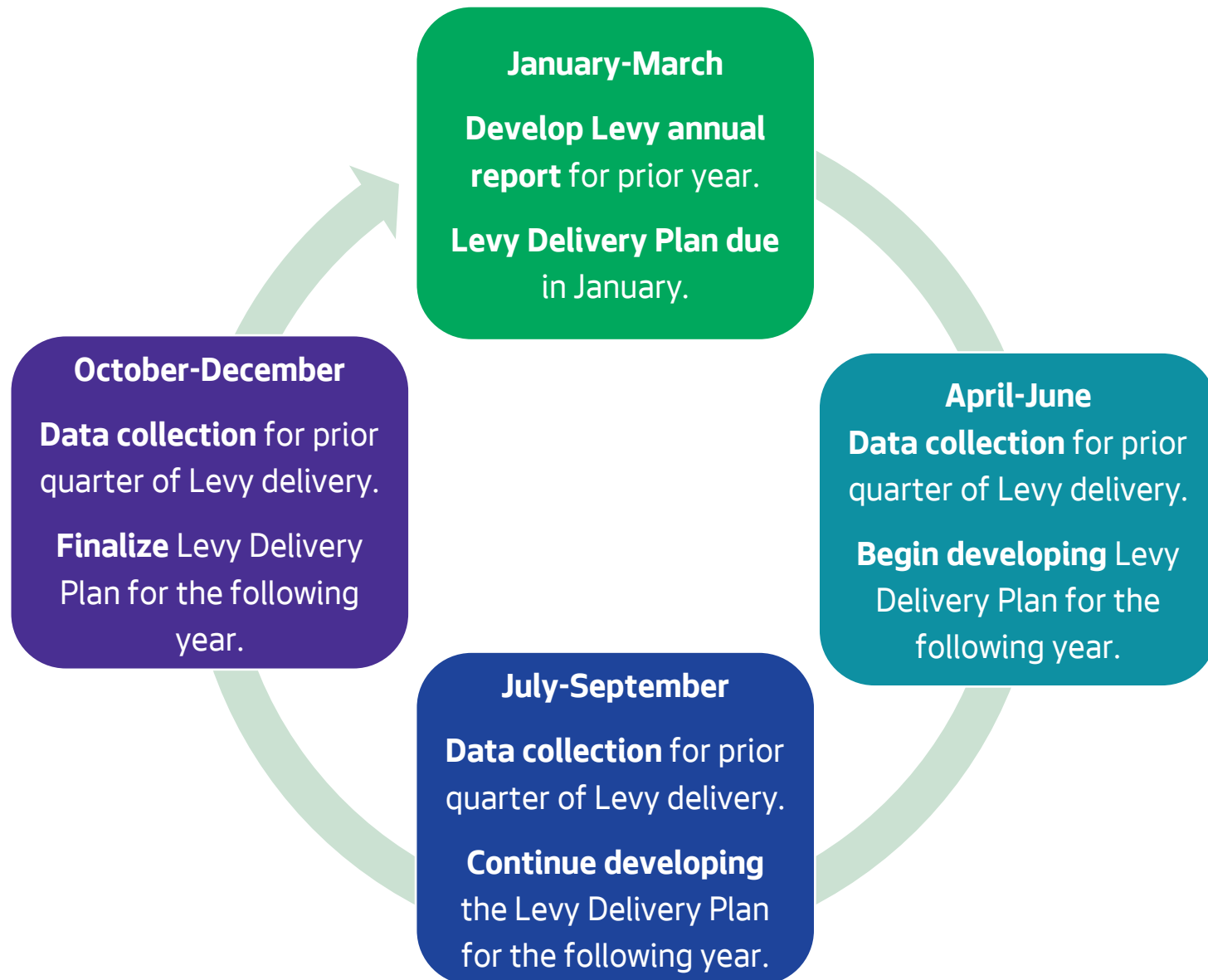
Update: A new bike connection and safer travel on Eastlake added:

protected bike lanes
improvements
signage

ip with @KingCountyMetro's new Layover Facility, to
sit & mobility for all!



The Cycle of Levy Delivery & Reporting



Throughout the year, we are always:

- Planning, designing, and constructing Levy-funded projects
(good weather is the height of construction season)
- Tracking status of Levy deliverables
- Collecting data/sharing highlights of what we have completed with Levy dollars

How will we work towards our goal to be transparent with & accountable to the LOC?

Hold regular meetings

Share progress on levy delivery and spending regularly through levy dashboard/ presentations

Host meetings at project sites

Offer support in accessing auditing resources as needed

Introduce you to levy program owners and provide detailed overviews of levy programs in future meetings

Offer support in developing subcommittees, where you can dive deeper on certain topics

Have 1:1 conversations with you as needed

What is the LOC's auditing function?

\$1M available for the 8-year life of levy allocated to *provide auditing and professional services support for the Levy Oversight Committee*

First step when deciding to audit would be **connecting with the Seattle Office of City Auditor**

City Auditor may conduct the audit or examination, or may **recommend an outside body** depending on scope/capacity

You as the LOC may want to use a levy-related audit in the future when you:

Identify projects or programs at **highest risk** for not meeting commitments to voters

Need to make a **recommendation** on usage of levy funds

Need to make a recommendation on **levy performance** at the end of the levy

Feel like you need **another layer of analysis** on a topic

What are some other methods of SDOT oversight/communication with public?

Some examples include:

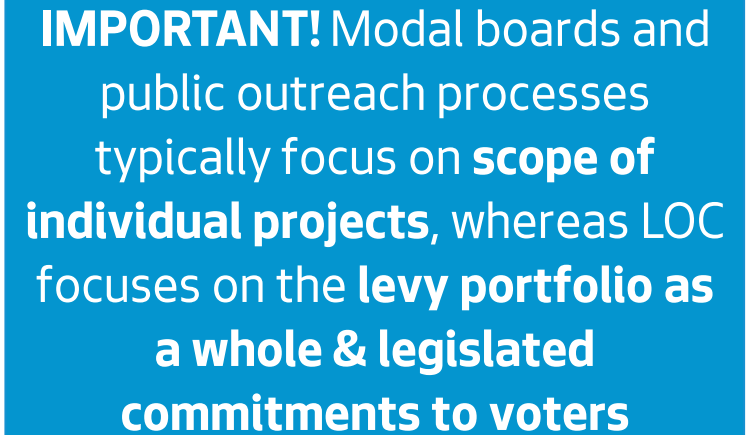
✓ **Other Advisory Boards/Committees/Workgroups:** Freight, Bicycle, Pedestrian, Transit, School Traffic Safety, Transportation Equity Workgroup.

✓ **Financial audits**

✓ **Auditing/reviews we perform on our contractors/consultants**

✓ **Auditing/reviews associated with grants we receive**

✓ **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:** Reporting/compliance on nondiscrimination in programs and activities



IMPORTANT! Modal boards and public outreach processes typically focus on **scope of individual projects**, whereas LOC focuses on the **levy portfolio as a whole & legislated commitments to voters**

Discussion: Transparency and Accountability

5 minutes:

Reflect/journal on the questions and write your answer on a post-it note. You may have already completed this as part of your onboarding work.

- ***What does transparency and accountability look like to you?***
- ***What is one way you want to see this show up in the LOC?***

Stick post-it note on your table. Feel free to look at others' post-its.

After this exercise, we will ask you to share one reflection with the group.



Discussion: Transparency and Accountability

What does transparency and accountability look like to you?

What is one way you want to see this show up in the LOC?


Please share one reflection (in reverse alphabetical order by first name)

Zach Burton
Wes Mills
Tyler Vasquez
Steven Pumphrey
Saroja Reddy
Nafiso Samatar
Lynda Firey-Oldroyd
Lucy Sloman
Harrison Jerome
Kaid Ni Ray-Tipton
Jack Whisner
Jack Brand
Geri Poor
Councilmember Rob Saka (delegate Ian Griswold)
Chase Kitchen
Alex Hudson


What you can expect over the next few months

(Individual meeting topics may change as needed)


No September meeting
Optional social on September 16 from 4-6pm at Stoup Brewing in Capitol Hill




Tuesday, October 7
5-7pm
Hybrid Meeting




Levy Equity Workplan Presentation



Tuesday, November 4
5-7pm
Hybrid Meeting



Levy Reporting



Tuesday, December 2
5-7pm
In Person Meeting

LOC Charter Development

Thank you!

