

Seattle Department of Transportation

# 2023 TRANSIT SPOT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REPORT



*Historic bus shelter – northbound Rainier Ave S and S Wildwood St*

October 2024



**Seattle**  
Department of  
Transportation

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# Introduction and Background

The Transit Spot Improvement Program is led by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Transit and Mobility Division, with support from several teams within SDOT, including Project Development, Capital Projects, Transportation Operations, Maintenance Operations and Communications. The Transit Spot Improvement Program is part of the Levy to Move Seattle. Approved by voters in November 2015, the 9-year, \$930 million Levy to Move Seattle provides funding to improve safety for all travelers, maintain our streets and bridges, and invest in reliable, affordable travel options for a growing city. This annual report describes 2023 Transit Spot Improvement Program accomplishments.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Transit Spot Improvement Program is to build smaller-scale transit capital investments that improve the operating environment for transit, making trips faster, safer, and more reliable for transit riders. The goals for the Transit Spot Improvement Program include:

1. Reduce delays in travel time and increase reliability for bus operations.
2. Improve safety for transit riders, bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers.
3. Improve passenger experience by making passenger facilities better.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING

The Transit Spot Improvement Program is funded by a variety of funding sources, including voter approved and partnership funds. These sources include the Levy to Move Seattle, Vehicle License Fees (VLF), including a \$20 VLF implemented in 2010 and the 2020 Seattle Transit Measure; and partnerships with King County Metro and Sound Transit.

To maximize the use of available local resources with SDOT, the Transit Spot Improvement Program successfully partners with other SDOT programs to plan, design, and implement projects. Partner programs include Sidewalk Repair; Americans with Disability Act (ADA); Bike, Pedestrian, and Pavement programs; Vision Zero; and Safe Routes to Schools. The Transit Spot Improvement Program also delivers projects on behalf of the Seattle Transit Measure.

The Transit Spot Improvement Program partners with King County and Sound Transit, to identify projects that are needed to support their bus operations and safety needs. By supporting these agencies with roadway infrastructure, Seattle transit riders benefit from these improvements.

## ADVANCING EQUITY

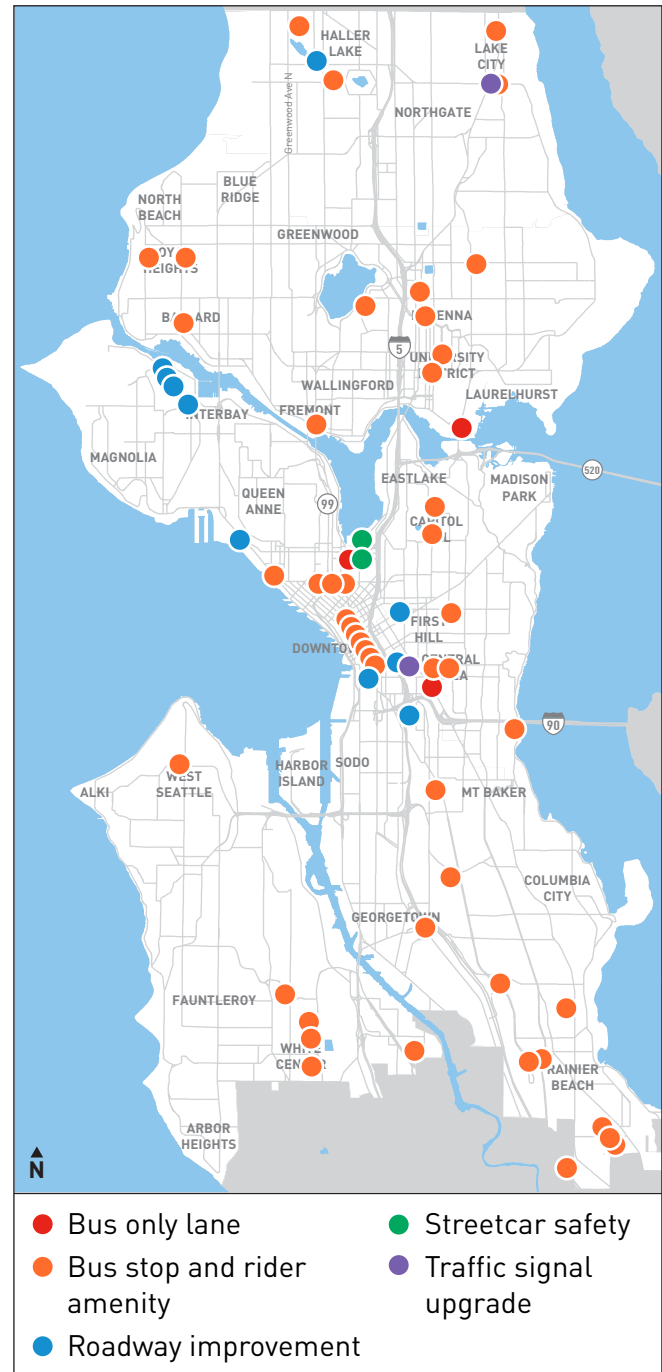
SDOT recognizes equity as a core value and believes transportation must meet the needs of communities of color and those of all incomes, ages, and abilities. SDOT's goal is to partner with communities to build a racially equitable and socially just transportation system.

To help achieve this goal, SDOT created the [Transportation Equity Program](#) which provides department-wide policy and strategic advisement on equitable, safe, environmentally sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation systems that support Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, low-income populations, people living with disabilities, and other communities historically and currently underinvested in by government. The Transit Spot Improvement Program contributes to the goals of the Transportation Equity Program by seeking to make transit safe, attractive, and reliable. Staff participated in the development of the Transportation Equity Framework in 2021, which is ongoing. The Transit Spot Improvement Program also continued to prioritize investments in historically underserved or currently disinvested areas.

In 2023, the Transit Spot Improvement Program focused on supporting strategies that have been identified in the Transportation Equity Framework, including the following:

*Identify opportunities to repurpose some travel lanes for transit, biking, and smaller, lighter-weight vehicles and devices to create more travel options with the Seattle Transportation Plan.*

## MAP OF 2023 TRANSIT SPOT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Summary of 2023 Transit Spot Improvement Program Accomplishments

Type of Transit Spot Improvement	Total Completed	Crew Delivered	Contractor Delivered
Bus-Only Lanes	3	3	0
Bus Stop and Rider Amenities	48	21	27
Traffic Signal Upgrades	3	2	1
Roadway Improvements	16	10	6
Streetcar Safety Improvements	3	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>34</b>

# 2023 Transit Spot Improvement Program Accomplishments

## 1. BUS-ONLY LANES

SDOT converted existing travel lanes to dedicated bus-only lanes to improve transit travel time and reliability in congested areas. Before implementing these changes, SDOT conducted an evaluation of the benefits and trade-offs of converting a general-purpose travel lane to a bus only lane. The capital investment for a lane conversion can include signage, lane markings and red paint to reinforce the “bus only” lane designation.

### Accomplishments include:

Location	Project	Delivery Method
Montlake Pl and Pacific St	Red paint treatment and signage for new bus lane	Crew
Terry Ave and Harrison St	Red paint treatment and signage to improve existing Streetcar only lane	Crew
Rainier Ave and Lane St	Refresh existing red paint treatment	Crew

### HIGHLIGHT

In August 2023, SDOT installed red paint treatment on Montlake Boulevard NE and NE Pacific Pl. The installation of red paint treatment benefitted riders using King County Metro Route 44.



*Westbound Montlake Boulevard NE and NE Pacific Pl*

## 2. BUS STOP AND RIDER AMENITIES

To make riding transit more attractive and comfortable, SDOT makes improvements to existing bus zones by installing bus benches, bus shelter footings, rear door landing pads, and bus bulbs. Rear door landing pads allow passengers to board and alight from the rear of the bus, while bus bulbs provide more waiting areas for

transit riders. In some cases, the Transit Spot Improvement Program partners with other SDOT programs such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) program to provide enhancements such as curb ramps. The Transit Spot Improvement Program also partners with King County Metro to install bus shelters which provide riders with weather protection and a seating area.

### Accomplishments include:

Location	Transit Spot Improvement	Transit Route Benefit	Delivery Method
Northbound Beacon Ave @ Jefferson Community Center	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 36	Crew
Northbound Renton Ave and Bangor St	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 107	Contractor
Southbound Renton Ave and Bangor St	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 107	Contractor
Northbound Renton Ave and Ryan St	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 107	Contractor
Southbound Renton Ave and Ryan St	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 107	Contractor
Northbound Renton Ave and Prentice St	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 107	Contractor
Southbound Renton Ave and Prentice St	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 107	Contractor
32nd Ave NW and NW 75th St	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 17	Contractor
12th Ave NE and NE 61st St	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 67, 73	Contractor
33rd Ave S and S Myrtle	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 36	Contractor
E Union St and 20th Ave	Bus Bench	Route 2	Contractor
Westbound Henderson St and Yukon Ave	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 7	Contractor
Carkeek Park Drive and 41st Ave S	Bus Zeon Expansion	Route 107	Contractor
9th Ave SW and SW Elmgrove St	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 21	Contractor
California Ave and Admiral Way	Bus Zone and Sidewalk Repair	Route 50, 128	Contractor
Swift Ave S and 16th Ave S (northbound)	Bus Shelter Pad	Route 60, 107	Contractor
24th Ave NW and NW 57th St (northbound)	Bus Shelter Paid	Route 40	Contractor
15th Ave E and E Prospect	Bus Zone Expansion	Route 10	Contractor
Northbound Lake City Way and NE 125th St	Bus Bulb	Routes 20, 322, 372, 522	Contractor
Southbound 12th Ave S and S Judkins St	Bus Zone Expansion and Concrete Road Panel Repair	Route 36	Contractor
Southbound 24th Ave NW and NW 75th St	Bus Shelter Paid	Route 40	Crew
Woodlawn Ave and N 63rd St	Bus Bench	Route 62	Crew
Greenwood Ave N and N 143rd St	Bus Bench	Route 5, 345	Crew

Location	Transit Spot Improvement	Transit Route Benefit	Delivery Method
30th Ave NE and NE 140th St	Bus Bench	Route 65	Crew
NE 50th St and 16th Ave NE	Bus Bench	Route 79	Crew
Western Ave W and 2nd Ave W	Bus Bench	Route 24, 33	Crew
Beacon Ave S and S Stevens St	Bus Bench	Route 36	Crew
6th Ave N and Denny Way	Bus Bench	Route 8	Crew
NE 75th St and 25th Ave NE	Bus Bench	Route 79	Crew
14th Ave S and S Trenton St	Bus Bench	Route 132	Crew
14th Ave S and S Director St	Bus Bench	Route 132	Crew
S Columbian Way and Beacon Ave S	Bus Bench	Route 36	Crew
S Avon St and Beacon Ave S	Bus Bench	Route 107	Crew
15th Ave SW and SW Webster	Bus Bench	Routes 125, 128	Crew
8th Ave SW and SW Barton St	Bus Bench	Route 131	Crew
Southbound Dexter Ave and Denny Way	Transit Island	Route 62	Contractor
Eastbound NE 35th St and Troll Ave	Bus Bulb	Routes 31, 32, and 62	Crew
Westbound NE 35th St and Troll Ave	Bus Bulb	Routes 31, 32, and 62	Crew
Northbound Rainier Ave S and S Wildwood St	Bus Zone and Sidewalk Repair	Route 7	Crew
Southbound Aurora Ave and NE 125th St	Bus Shelter Pad	Route E	Contractor
Southbound Westlake Ave and 9th Ave	Bus and Streetcar Zone Expansion	Route 40, C, Streetcar	Contractor
E Garfield St and Grandview Pl	Bus zone Expansion	Rout 10	Contractor
E Yesler Way and 19th Ave S	Bus Shelter Pad	Route 27	Contractor
NE 45th St and University Ave	Bus Bulb	Route 44	Contractor
Westbound Yesler Way and 17th Ave S	Bench	Route 27	Crew
36th Ave S and S Day St	Bench	Route 27	Crew
Northbound Cloverdale St and 8th Ave S	Bus Zone Expansion	Routes 60, 132	Contractor
Southbound Cloverdale St and 8th Ave S	Bus Zone Expansion	Routes 60, 132	Contractor



## H I G H L I G H T

Improvements were made to southbound California Ave SW and SW Admiral Way. At this bus zone, the sidewalk was repaired and access for persons with disabilities was improved.



*Southbound California Ave SW and SW Admiral Way*

### 3. TRAFFIC SIGNALS

SDOT installs transit signal improvements at busy intersections. Transit signal improvements provide safer environments for transit riders to cross the street and increase safety for transit vehicles as they make left turns. SDOT partners with King County Metro to identify signal locations to improve bus operations that meet the requirements for King County Metro, Community Transit and Sound Transit buses.

#### Accomplishments include:

Location	Project	Delivery Method
Southbound Roosevelt Way @ NE 67th St	Transit island and pedestrian half signal	Contractor
NE 125th St and 30th Ave NE	Northbound and southbound left turn phase signals and intersection changes	Crew
Eastbound Yesler Way and 12th Ave E	Eastbound left turn signal	Crew

## H I G H L I G H T

On southbound Roosevelt Way and NE 67th St, a pedestrian half-signal was installed to improve safety for bus riders crossing Roosevelt Way



Roosevelt Way and NE 67th St



## 4. ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The Transit Spot Improvement Program makes changes to existing right-of-way, curb space (restricting or adjusting parking and loading) and adjusts travel lanes (shifting traffic stop bars) to improve bus operations on roadways. These

changes make it easier for buses to operate in the urban environment and reduce the potential for collisions with other modes of transportation. Benefits to transit riders include reductions in travel time and a safer travel experience.

### Accomplishments include:

Location	Project	Delivery Method
Broadway (between Union St and Pine St)	Re-channelization to improve Streetcar and bus operations	Crew
4th Ave (between Yesler and Olive) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4th and Yesler</li> <li>• 4th and James</li> <li>• 4th and Cherry</li> <li>• 4th and Madison</li> <li>• 4th and Seneca</li> <li>• 4th and University</li> <li>• 4th and Union</li> <li>• 4th and Pine</li> </ul>	Refresh existing crosswalks	Crew
Southbound 2nd Ave and Jackson	Re-channelization to improve bus operations	Crew
Gilman Ave Safety Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gilman/W Fort St</li> <li>• Gilman/W Jameson St</li> <li>• Gilman/W Elmore St</li> <li>• Gilman/W Emerson Pl</li> </ul>	Transit islands to separate bicyclists from buses	Contractor
Mercer Pl and Elliott Ave W	Add candlesticks to narrow right-of-way	Contractor
N 130th St and Linden Ave	Intersection modification	Contractor

### H I G H L I G H T

At the intersection of Elliott Ave W and W Mercer Pl, SDOT worked with King County Metro to make safety improvements for buses traveling on northbound Elliott Ave W. SDOT installed lane markings and posts to slow down merging traffic traveling from W Mercer Pl onto Elliott Ave W.



Northbound Elliott Ave W and W Mercer Pl

## 5. STREETCAR SAFETY

SDOT owns and maintains the South Lake Union and First Hill Streetcars. As the owner of the Streetcar, SDOT complies with federal safety regulations and prioritizes safety in investment decisions. The Transit Spot Improvement Program works in partnership with Streetcar Chief Safety Officer and the Vision Zero program to identify safety needs and implement projects to improve safety.

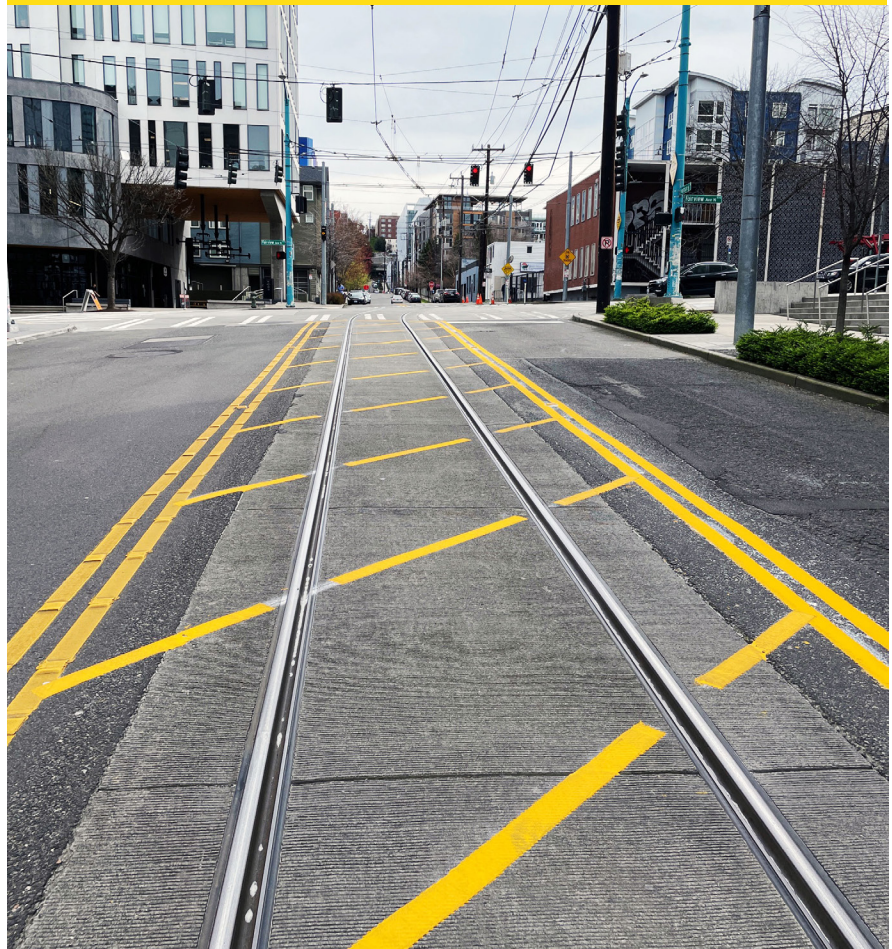
Safety improvements include separating bicycle facilities from the streetcar tracks, installing bicycle signals and installing barriers to prevent automobiles from parking in or too close to streetcar tracks.

### Accomplishments include:

Location	Project	Delivery Method
Fairview Ave and Harrison St	Streetcar hatching to prevent cars from blocking Streetcar	Crew
Broadway and Fir St	Parking lines to prevent cars from blocking Streetcar tracks	Crew
Fairview Ave and Valley St	No Left Turn restriction and hatching marks	Crew

### H I G H L I G H T

To increase the visibility of the Streetcar, SDOT installed hatching on Fairview Ave and Harrison St to prevent cars from blocking the Streetcar.



*Fairview Ave and Harrison St*



# 2024 Look Ahead

The Transit Spot Improvement Program had a very successful year, managing multiple priorities for its resources and delivering 73 projects throughout the City of Seattle. To produce this high volume of projects, the Transit Spot Improvement Program partnered with other programs, such as the Safe Routes to School, Bicycle, and the Sidewalk Repair program to deliver projects. With the Move Seattle Levy program nearing its completion in 2024, the Transit Spot Improvement Program has successfully completed its commitments. This success has been attributed to working closely with other divisions, including Project Development and Delivery and Capital Projects which deliver most of the Transit Spot Improvement Program projects.

As the Transit Spot Improvement Program heads into 2024, the Transit Spot Improvement Program will continue to manage a high volume of requests and support the following SDOT priorities:

- Move Seattle Levy funded projects
- King County Metro partnered spot improvements
- Streetcar and transit safety projects
- Seattle Transit Measure capital investments
- Transportation Equity Framework advancement

## 2023 COMPLETED SDOT TRANSIT SPOT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS

Quarter 1			Transit Supportive Element
Northbound Beacon Ave and Jefferson	Bus zone expansion	Q1 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
NB Renton Ave and Bangor	Bus zone expansion	Q1 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
SB Renton Ave and Bangor	Bus zone expansion	Q1 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
NB Renton Ave and Ryan	Bus zone expansion	Q1 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
SB Renton Ave and Ryan	Bus zone expansion	Q1 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
NB Renton Ave and Prentice	Bus zone expansion	Q1 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
SB Renton Ave and Prentice	Bus zone expansion	Q1 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
32nd Ave NW and NW 75th St	Bus zone expansion	Q1 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
Southbound Roosevelt Way @ NE 67th St	Transit island and pedestrian half signal	Q1 STM	Expanded bus waiting area and pedestrian safety
12th Ave NE and NE 61st St	Bench	Q1 MS	Passenger amenity
33rd Ave S and S Myrtle	Bench	Q1 MS	Passenger amenity
Quarter 2			Transit Supportive Element
Fairview and Harrison	Streetcar hatchings to prevent cars from blocking Streetcar	Q2 STM	Streetcar safety to reduce collisions
E Union St and 20th Ave	Bench	Q2 MS	Passenger amenity
Westbound Henderson St and Yukon Ave	Bus zone expansion	Q2 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
Carkeek Park Drive and 41st Ave S	Bus zone expansion	Q2 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
Northbound Terry Ave and Harrison St	Red bus lane	Q2 MS	Reduce delay for Streetcar
Broadway (between Union and Pine)	Re-channelization	Q2 MS	Improve safety for transit vehicles
Broadway and Fir	Parking lines to prevent cars from blocking Streetcar tracks	Q2 STM	Streetcar safety to reduce collisions
9th Ave SW and SW Elmgrove St	Bus zone expansion	Q2 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
Rainier Ave and Lane St	Refresh existing bus lane with red paint treatment	Q2 MS	Reduce delay for transit
California Ave and Admiral Way	Sidewalk repair	Q2 MS	Expanded bus waiting area
Swift Ave S and 16th Ave S (northbound)	Bus shelter pad	Q2 STM	Passenger amenity
24th Ave NW and NW 57th St (northbound)	Bus shelter pad	Q2 STM	Passenger amenity
Fairview and Valley	No Left Turn restriction and hatching marks	Q2 STM	Streetcar safety to reduce collisions
Montlake Pl and Pacific St	Red bus lane	Q2 MS	Reduce delay for buses

Quarter 3			Transit Supportive Element
15th Ave E and E Prospect	Bus zone expansion	Q3 MS	Expand bus waiting area
NE 125th St and 30th Ave NE	Northbound and southbound left turn phase signals and intersection changes	Q3 MS	Reduce transit delay
Northbound Lake City Way and NE 125th St	Bus bulb	Q3 STBD	Expand bus waiting area
Eastbound Yesler Way and 12th Ave E	Left turn signal, raised bicycle lane, rear door landing pad	Q3 MS	Improve safety between Streetcar and bicyclists
Southbound 12th Ave S and S Judkins St	Bus shelter pad and concrete panel repair	Q3 MS	Passenger amenity
Southbound 24th Ave NW and NW 75th St	Bus shelter pad	Q3 STM	Expand bus waiting area
Bus Benches	14 benches: 1. Woodlawn Ave and N 63rd St (Route 62) 2. Greenwood Ave and N 143rd St (Route 5 and 345) 3. 30th Ave NE and NE 140th St (Route 65) 4. NE 50th St and 16th Ave NE (Route 79) 5. Western Ave W and 2nd Ave W (Route 24 and 33) 6. Beacon Ave S and S Stevens St (Route 36) 7. 6th Ave N and Denny Way (Route 8) 8. NE 75th St and 25th Ave NE (Route 79) 9. 14th Ave S and S Trenton St (Route 132) 10. 14th Ave S and S Director (Route 132) 11. S Columbian Way and Beacon Ave S (Route 36) 12. S Avon St and Beacon Ave S (Route 107) 13. 15th Ave SW and SW Webster (Routes 125 and 128) 14. 8th Ave SW and SW Barton (Route 131)	Q3 MS	Passenger amenity
Southbound Dexter Ave and Denny Way	Transit Island	Q3 MS	Expand bus waiting area

Quarter 4			Transit Supportive Element
Eastbound NE 35th St and Troll Ave	Bus bulb	Q4 MS	Expand bus waiting area
Westbound NE 35th St and Troll Ave	Bus bulb	Q4 MS	Expand bus waiting area
4th Ave (between Yesler and Olive) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4th and Yesler</li> <li>• 4th and James</li> <li>• 4th and Cherry</li> <li>• 4th and Madison</li> <li>• 4th and Seneca</li> <li>• 4th and University</li> <li>• 4th and Union</li> <li>• 4th and Pine</li> </ul>	Refresh crosswalks	Q4 MS	Improve access to transit stops
Northbound Rainier Ave S and S Wildwood St	Sidewalk repair	Q4 MS	Expand bus waiting area
Southbound Aurora Ave and NE 125th St	Bus shelter pad	Q4 STM	Passenger amenity
Southbound 2nd Ave and Jackson	Re-channelization to improve bus operations	Q4 MS	Reduce transit delay
Westbound Mercer Pl and Elliott Ave W	Add candlesticks to narrow right of way	Q4 MS	Improve safety between transit and pedestrians
Southbound Westlake and 9th Ave	Expand RapidRide and Streetcar platform	Q4 MS	Expand bus waiting area
E Garfield St and Grandview Pl	Bus zone expansion	Q4 MS	Passenger amenity
E Yesler Way and 19th Ave S	Bus shelter pad	Q4 STM	Passenger amenity
Gilman Ave Safety Improvements	Safety Improvements – 4 locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gilman/W Fort St</li> <li>• Gilman/W Jameson St</li> <li>• Gilman/W Elmore St</li> <li>• Gilman/W Emerson Pl</li> </ul>	Q4 STBD (\$60 VLF)	Improve safety between transit and bicyclists
NE 45th St and University Ave	Bus bulb	Q4 MS	Expand bus waiting area
Westbound Yesler and 17th	Bench	Q4 MS	Passenger amenity
36th and Day	Bench	Q4 MS	Passenger amenity
Northbound Cloverdale and 8th Ave	Bus shelter pad	Q4 STM	Passenger amenity
Southbound Cloverdale and 8th Ave	Bus shelter pad	Q4 STM	Passenger amenity
N 130th St and Linden Ave N	Intersection modification	Q4 MS	Improve safety between transit and bicyclists



## TOTALS BY QUARTER

Quarter	Total
1	11
2	14
3	21
4	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>

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