

Levy to Move Seattle Oversight Committee Meeting

[Levy Oversight Committee bylaws – adopted April 2017](#)

[Move Seattle Levy legislation, approved June 29, 2015](#)

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Co-chairs: Geri Poor, Kevin Werner

Location: Video Conference, in-person at City Hall

Members Present: Inga Manskopf, Kevin Werner, Sam Ferrara, Geri Poor (Freight Board), Jessica Nguyen, Alex Bejarán Estévez, Saroja Reddy (City Budget Office), Natasha Riveron (Pedestrian Board), Donna McBain Evans (Bike Board), Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Tyler Blackwell, Lisa Bogardus, Dennis Gathard

Members Absent: Clara Cantor, Councilmember Rob Saka

Guests: Kit Loo, Meghan Shepard, Chris Gregorich, Chris Godwin, Francisca Stefan, Margo Iñiguez Dawes, Kris Castleman, Serena Lehman, Kalen Carney, Katie Olsen, Dan Anderson, Brian Sperry, Caryn Walline (all SDOT), Ryan Packer (The Urbanist), Avery,

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:02 PM

Welcome and roll call

Kevin W.: Conducted roll call for committee members.

Katie O.: Introduced City staff.

Public Comment

Kevin W.: Asked if anyone wanted to give public comment. No public comment.

Agenda item #1: Bridge Seismic Program Update

Kit L.: Provided a [update on the Bridge Seismic Program](#). SDOT is committed to delivering 16 bridge seismic reinforcement projects in accordance with the Levy Ordinance. We have added five bridges to the program to compensate for the five bridges that we removed from the work plan in 2020 because they are too costly to deliver within the program budget. Out of the 16, four projects are completed, two projects will likely start construction in Q1 2024, we have completed design on five bridges, and the remaining bridges were recently advertised for contractor bids.

Rachel B.: Can you address the Ballard and Fremont Bridges being removed from the work plan in 2020 in future materials that are being shared publicly, so that people who see the materials can understand the full history?

Kit L.: We can do that; and we can continue to sit down with the committee and share cost estimates relating to Ballard and Fremont bridges. Our priority is being transparent on the cost for bridges in the program.

Dennis G.: Regarding the 2020 memo, there was \$67M available in the budget, how much of the \$21M remains for the bridges that replaced the Ballard and Fremont bridges in the work plan?

Kit L.: I think close to the \$21 M will be needed for the five bridges added to the work plan.

Serena L.: We are constantly monitoring funding needs in the Levy portfolio and have come to the committee when there's been opportunity to make adjustments.

Dennis G.: What's the plan for Ballard and Fremont bridges in the future?

Meghan S.: We'll be taking about that in the next agenda item.

Gerri P.: Did actual costs of other bridges come in higher than anticipated?

Kit L.: It has been a mix of some bridges costing more and other bridges costing less than anticipated.

Lisa B.: What was the estimated cost of all of the bridge seismic projects in the original workplan?

Kit L.: It was \$730M.

Kevin W.: Does the map show all of the bridge seismic projects funded by the Levy?

Kit L. Yes. We also advanced some projects in design in the event we needed to pause a project due to unforeseen risks.

Agenda item #2: Transportation Funding Plan Update

Meghan S.: Provided an [update on the Transportation Funding Plan](#). The Funding Plan considers needs and funding sources across different time horizons, when fund sources expire, and how they are approved or enacted, and where the revenue can be spent, and many other factors. The Levy renewal plan is a one-time sensitive part of the Transportation Funding Plan and is our primary focus at this time. We have learned a lot with the current levy, including a desire to track outcomes on our investments, the challenges with estimating costs of capital projects over a long timeframe, and how to address changing and unforeseen economic conditions like inflation and supply chain issues that we experienced during and after the pandemic. Our Transportation Asset Management Plan takes a close look at our seven highest value assets that total \$40B and how we can most cost effectively maintain all our assets based on lifecycle cost needs of each.

Rachel B.: One of the points that the committee raised in the letter is staff resources are critical and sometimes there isn't enough staff to deliver. SDOT should anticipate a Levy renewal and staff up to deliver.

Meghan S.: It did take some time to staff up with the current Levy and we need to be thinking about the size of a Levy renewal relative to our current staffing.

Denis G.: How about a bond measure since property tax measures are limited?

Chris G.: Historically, SDOT has not used a Levy to pay for debt service.

Dennis G.: How are you addressing cost estimating in the next Levy?

Serena L.: We have learned a lot about delivering larger capital projects during this levy that we can apply to the next levy, including as it relates to cost estimates.

Kevin W.: Are you comparing lessons learned with other cities relating to funding and safety?

Meghan S.: That's a great question for our subject matter experts regarding safety. In terms of funding, we have learned from other agencies about their funding strategies.

Saroja R.: What would it cost over 8 years for bridge maintenance?

Kit L.: About \$20M per year to keep the bridges in good condition now in good condition, but in some years additional investments would be needed for rehabilitation or replacement bridge projects.

Agenda item 3: Committee Business

LOC Draft Recommendation and next steps

Kevin W.: Any objections for a factual review of the letter by SDOT? OK, there are no objections.

Committee members discussed potential revisions to the letter.

Meeting Minutes for Approval

Rachel B.: I motion to approve the December minutes.

Donna M.: I second the motion.

Kevin W.: The December minutes are approved.

Adjourn: 7:00 PM

Action items

Action items below capture pending tasks from this and prior meetings.

Action item	Meeting	Lead	Status	Deadline
Share the data behind the chart on slide 5 .	Nov. 2023	SDOT	Working on request.	ASAP