

## **Levy to Move Seattle Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, February 20, 2018 / 5:30 – 7:30 PM

**Co-chairs:** Betty Spieth-Croll, Ron Posthuma

**Location:** City Hall, Room 370

**Members Present:** Joseph Laubach; Nick Paranjpye; Ron Posthuma; Alex Wakeman Rouse; Betty Spieth-Croll; Patrick Taylor; David Seater; Saroja Reddy (for Ben Noble); Betty Spieth-Croll

**Members Absent:** Rachel Ben-Shmuel; Todd Biesold; Lisa Bogardus; Brian Estes; Hester Serebrin; Councilmember Mike O'Brien

**Guests:** Elliot Helmbrecht; Kristen Simpson; Rachel McCaffrey; Lorelei Williams; Nick Makhani; Jeff Lundstrom (all SDOT)

### **MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM**

#### **Introduction and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ron Posthuma welcomed the group. No public comments were recorded. The Committee approved the November meeting minutes.

#### **SDOT Report**

Deputy Mayor Shefali Ranganathan introduced herself. She thanked Betty for her role in the SDOT director search that began in May 2018 and involved representatives from various sectors to select a new director. She explained Mayor Durkan's three major goals:

- To execute on the voter-approved projects, including the Levy to Move Seattle
- To rebuild Seattle with the breadth of infrastructure projects SDOT manages, incorporating a safe, connected, and multimodal transportation system
- To take care of existing assets and infrastructure

Shefali introduced the new SDOT Director, Sam Zimbabwe, noting his confirmation vote is scheduled for February 25.

Sam thanked the group and introduced himself and his background with the Washington, DC Department of Transportation. He explained his plan to attend future Committee meetings as he is able and added noted his goal of being transparent, consistent, and accountable to the Committee. He noted he will be a resource for the Committee and Committee staff. He also shared that Darby Watson, Project Development Division Director, will be leaving SDOT in the next week and that the department will continue to have organizational changes as work progresses. Sam discussed the recent viaduct closure and snowfall response and the significant shift in resources that these two events required. Lorelei explained that the most significant impacts were to traffic operations and SDOT's maintenance crews. She added that SDOT is currently working to identify how significant the impact was and will share that information with the Committee.

Patrick asked when the Committee will hear more information about the bike component of the levy. Director Zimbabwe responded that SDOT owes a report on the Bike Master Plan to City Council by March 18.

### **2018 Q4 Report**

Rachel M. explained the team is working to finalize the 2018 Annual Report by March 30 and that it will be presented at the April 2 Committee meeting. She reviewed key accomplishments from Q4.

David asked what the annual target is for Vision Zero. He noted the website no longer explains the targets, and only says three projects were completed in 2018. Rachel M. responded that the annual targets for Vision Zero specifically is three projects. David noted that the goal of Vision Zero is zero deaths from traffic accidents, not building x number of projects. Lorelei responded that there may be an opportunity to link to the Vision Zero story on the website but suggested that going forward the team can consider what specific areas the Committee should dive into. Nick P. asked if SDOT has well-defined metrics to measure the performance of these projects in pursuit of the Vision Zero goals. He pointed out that in order to measure the performance, there must be time to collect data after the project is completed. Elliot added that there is a Vision Zero annual report expected out this spring and suggested that timing may work well for a report out to the Committee.

Lorelei explained that the Fairview Bridge construction advertisement had to advertise a second time due to issues with low bidders during the first round. She emphasized this as an example of complications that impact project timelines. She also noted that the Delridge project is scheduled to go to Council in March to move forward to the next phase and the Lander St Bridge construction is well underway.

Ron asked when the Northgate Bridge will go out to bid. Lorelei responded that bid advertisement will move forward on February 22. There were some tribal and permitting impacts that had not been considered which caused some minor complications in the permitting process.

Nick P. asked if there are any red flags on Lander Bridge construction that indicate the cost may go up. Lorelei responded that the full funding amount (\$130M) was kept in the workplan, even though bids came in closer to \$100M. There are a couple of pending claims with the contractor and the railroad that might add costs, but the total cost is still likely to be under or near \$100M.

Rachel M. refreshed the Committee on quarterly spending trends since the beginning of the levy. She noted the PowerPoint presentation is unchanged from the planned February 5 meeting and the Q4 totals presented note data as of January 25. Rachel M. shared a handout with updated spending, as of February 8. Current spending is at \$165M, about \$10M more than what was expected at the last meeting.

### **Grants Update**

Kristen Simpson introduced herself, to provide an update on leveraging assumptions. She reminded the Committee that the leveraging assumptions were revised from \$564M to \$525M, with most changes in the Maintenance and Repairs category. She outlined the grants that had been awarded as of January 2019, for a total of \$27.45M awarded and \$8.8M pending final approval for levy projects. She highlighted that looking ahead, federal grants have significantly changed since the start of the levy. She reminded the Committee that most of the grant funding comes through the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), which awards grants bi-annually. Grants awarded in 2020 will be used in 2023, near the end of the levy.

Nick P. asked if these funds must be used in a certain time period. Kristen responded that each specific grant is for a project and has a schedule, most of which will expire before the end of the Levy.

Ron asked if there are any updates on the Madison project. Lorelei explained that the team is meeting with the FTA regularly to get a Project Management Oversight Consultant (PMOC). The PMOC works with the project on every step of the project. She added that SDOT is re-evaluating how it manages its relationship with FTA on the Madison, Roosevelt, and Streetcar Small Starts projects. Rachel M. added that the Rapid Ride group is planning to share an update with the Committee in June.

Betty expressed satisfaction with the grant leveraging progress to date. Alex asked the source of the Rapid Ride grant funding. Kristen responded that these grants were awarded by PSRC.

Joe asked if these grants would have been possible without Move Seattle funding. Kristen explained that many of these grants are very competitive, and without the Levy money many of the projects would not be possible. Without the local match, SDOT wouldn't be able to pursue grants that require local match.

## **Committee Business**

### 2018 Committee Letter

Betty explained that the Committee writes an annual letter to the Mayor and the Council making recommendations or observations on the process. The Committee will start on this letter now and will finalize during the March meeting. Director Zimbabwe asked if the letter discussed any goals for the following year. Betty responded that the letter does not discuss goals, but rather reflects on the previous year. She noted that it can include recommendations for the following year.

The committee discussed topics to be included in the letter:

- SDOT's response to issues they identified as part of the levy assessment
- Mention the process to identify a new SDOT director, and the selection of Sam Zimbabwe
- Note the better spending in 2018 than in previous years
- Calling attention to bicycle safety components
- Outreach and communication on neighborhood projects (35th Street, Green Lake), and steps that have been taken to improve outreach on these projects
  - There are six new FTE staff at the Department of Neighborhoods funded by SDOT, and partially by the levy, to improve this outreach

Betty will draft the letter and circulate to the Committee with the goal of finalizing at the March 5 meeting.

### Vacant Seats

Betty explained that there are two vacant Committee seats. Rachel M. reiterated the process for filling committee seats that was explained at a meeting last fall. For regular committee seats that are not modal board representatives, appointing authority is either City Council or the Mayor. The appointing authority may recruit or select a candidate or they may choose to have an open, competitive process. For the vacant Council-appointed seat, a competitive process was requested and a public call for applicants was announced on February 1 and will close on March 1.

Betty noted this is the first time in her tenure on the Move Seattle or Bridging the Gap oversight committees that the committee has been involved in selection. Alex mentioned she was interviewed by

fellow modal boardmembers. David explained the Pedestrian Advisory Board’s process for evaluating, interviewing, and recommending candidates to the appointing authority. Betty asked if any members were interested to review potential candidates and that volunteers should contact Rachel M.

2019 meeting planning

Rachel M. shared a handout with proposed monthly meeting topics for 2019. She asked for Committee feedback on these topics. Nick P. suggested performance measures be added to the list, noting he did not have a good understanding of the current system. Alex added that she also wants to understand what evaluations are in place to assess the impact of Levy work. Lorelei explained that each program has a different method, most informed by history. She pointed out that some of the Vision Zero or Safe Routes to School projects are harder to explain because they require gathering data over time. Director Zimbabwe added that there are both outputs (e.g., miles of repaving), and outcomes (e.g., are we achieving the Vision Zero goal of no traffic deaths). Nick P. explained that he does not want to dive into the details of individual programs, but rather at a general level. Betty emphasized that at every opportunity SDOT should tell the story about the integrated transportation system, rather than just reporting on things like lane miles or pavement miles. The group discussed how SDOT can report out on the progress of the levy in a way that shares the message of rebuilding the city through infrastructure investment. Director Zimbabwe suggested the April meeting would be a good time to readdress this topic, when the 2018 annual report is available.

**Subcommittees**

Betty explained that the Finance and Performance subcommittees have not been active for several months. The Committee will need to consider how these groups will continue now that the Committee is meeting monthly.

**Action items**

Action items below capture action items from previous meetings, beginning with the February 2018 meeting. Complete items will remain on action item tracker for one additional meeting minutes to capture “complete” status and then be removed.

Action item	Meeting	Lead	Status	Deadline
Add performance evaluation/measures discussion to April agenda	Feb. 20	Rachel	Complete	Feb. 20
Draft 2018 Committee Letter	Feb. 20	Betty	Betty to draft and circulate to Committee members	Prior to March 5 meeting
In annual reports, differentiate multimodal corridors to accurately reflect their individual status	Nov. 29	Rachel	This request will be tracked for future reports	Tracking
In annual reports, add a “red, yellow, green” symbol to the status of each program	Nov. 29	Rachel	This request will be tracked for future reports	Tracking

Action item	Meeting	Lead	Status	Deadline
Request for bike project list to be clear about which projects will be counted in the levy BMP deliverable commitment of 110 miles vs. which projects may be in other subprograms (i.e. Northgate Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge)	Aug. 23	Elliot	This request will be addressed in the 2019-2024 BMP Implementation Plan, tentatively scheduled for completion in Spring 2019.	Tracking
Develop guiding principles for the next levy	June 7	LOC	Tracking	TBD; LOC to determine
Keep committee informed on Fautleroy progress	May 24	SDOT	<b>In progress:</b> Rachel to keep the committee updated as the Mayor and Councilmember Herbold continue community process to identify near-term safety improvements	Ongoing

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 7:30 PM