

Seattle Transportation Levy Oversight Committee

October 2025



Agenda

5:00pm-5:10pm: Welcome

- New LOC Member Introduction
- SDOT Staff Member Introduction
- Public Comment

5:10pm-5:20pm: Meeting Purpose

5:20pm-6:40pm: SDOT Presentation + Q&A

- Equity
- Demonstrating Levy Accountability
- Brief Budget Update

6:40pm-7:00pm: Wrap Up and Look-Ahead to Next Meetings

Thank you for your patience in our first hybrid meeting!

Camera

Please have camera on if you're able. We understand that there may be times where you are unable to have your camera on.

Chat feature

Please do not use the Chat feature for substantive questions. All questions should be asked verbally.

The Chat feature may be used for things such as "I am having trouble hearing the room" or "Thank you!"

Questions and Comments

Please raise your hand virtually if you have a question. If there are multiple questions, we will take questions from those in person first, then move to the virtual room.

Public comments are only taken verbally during the designated public comment period. If members of the public have additional comments or questions, they may email:

TransportationLevy@Seattle.gov



Welcome New LOC Member, Timothy Chang!



SDOT Staff Introductions

Public Comment



Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Learn about equity at SDOT and in the Levy
 - *Understand how SDOT integrates equity into Levy project prioritization and into our day-to-day practices*
- Learn about how SDOT is approaching demonstrating accountability in partnership with LOC
 - *Share your feedback on how SDOT is approaching demonstrating accountability for the Levy*
- Learn about the Mayor's 2026 Proposed Budget
 - *Obtain a high-level understanding of the City budget process and how that relates to the Levy*



Equity at SDOT

Alex King & Annya Pintak - SDOT

***Sharon Sobers-Outlaw & Akira Ohiso - SDOT's Transportation
Equity Workgroup***

Outline

- Equity at SDOT
- Introduction to Transportation Equity Workgroup & Transportation Equity Framework
- Levy Equity Workplan Background, Progress, & Next Steps

Key Takeaways

Equity is everybody's work at SDOT

The Transportation Equity Framework is our guiding document

We incorporate equity into our decision-making

We continue to focus on standardizing and advancing how we do that

Geographic equity is one of many inputs that guide the work we do

Other factors include *asset condition, safety impact*, etc.

The Seattle Transportation Levy provides an opportunity to further advance equity

Supports needed investments in historically underserved communities



Equity at SDOT

Equality vs. Equity

EQUALITY:

Everyone gets the same – regardless if it's needed or right for them.

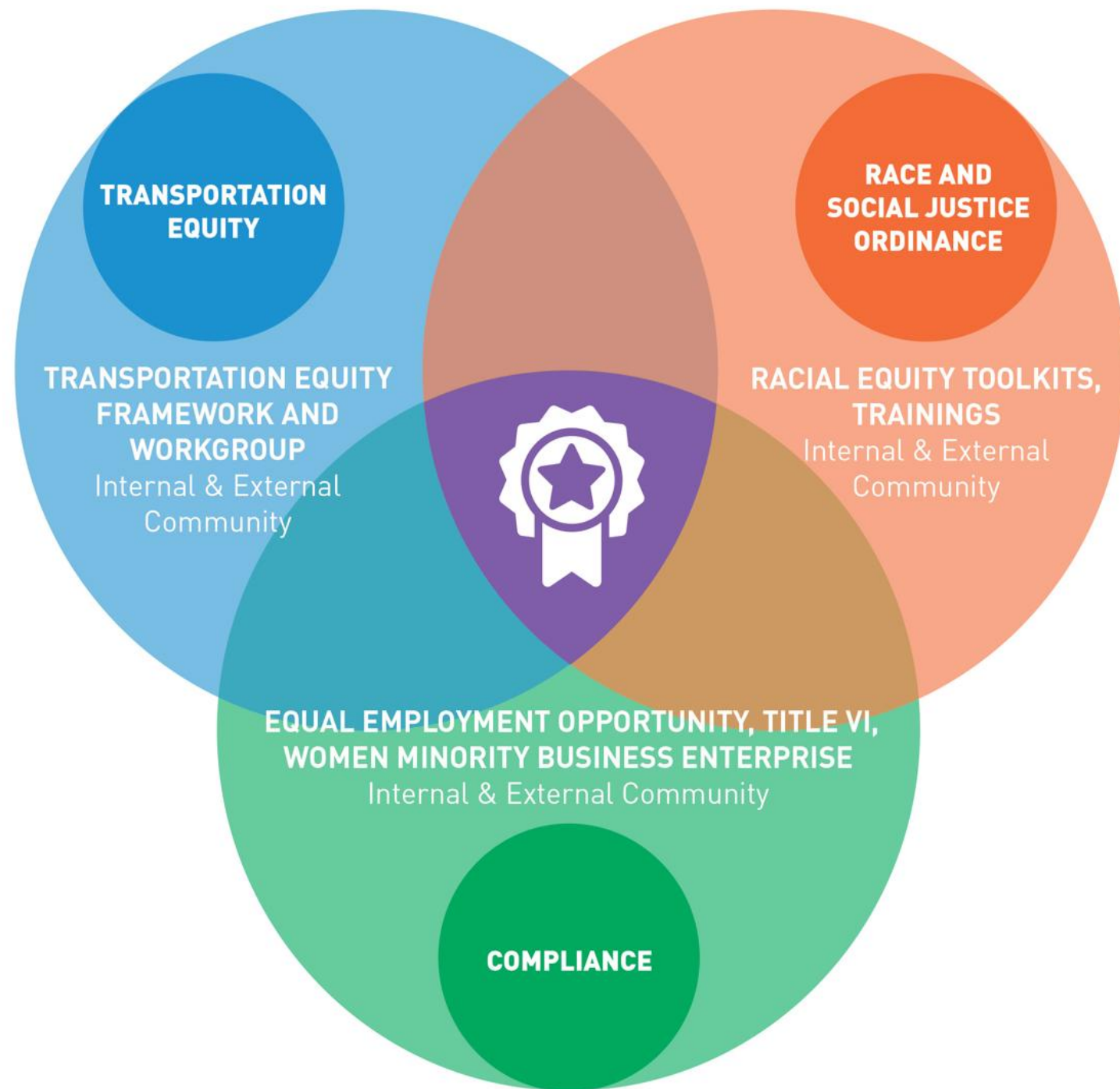


EQUITY:

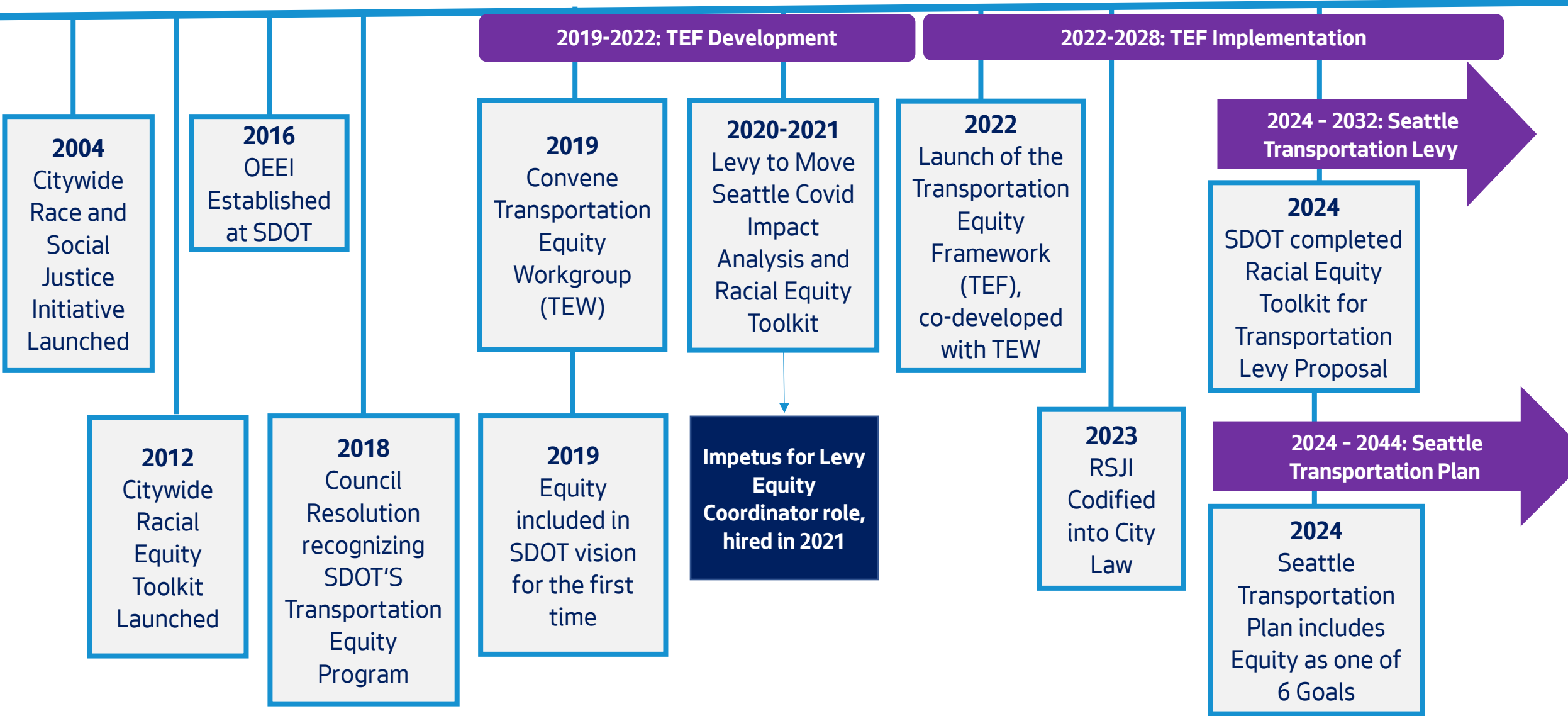
Everyone gets what they need – understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



Equity at SDOT



Timeline of Equity at SDOT



Transportation Equity **Workgroup** & Transportation Equity **Framework**



Transportation Equity Workgroup (TEW)

- Began 2019
- Compensated group of community members, affiliated with local organizations
- Lived experience & expertise with communities of color & vulnerable communities



Role of the TEW

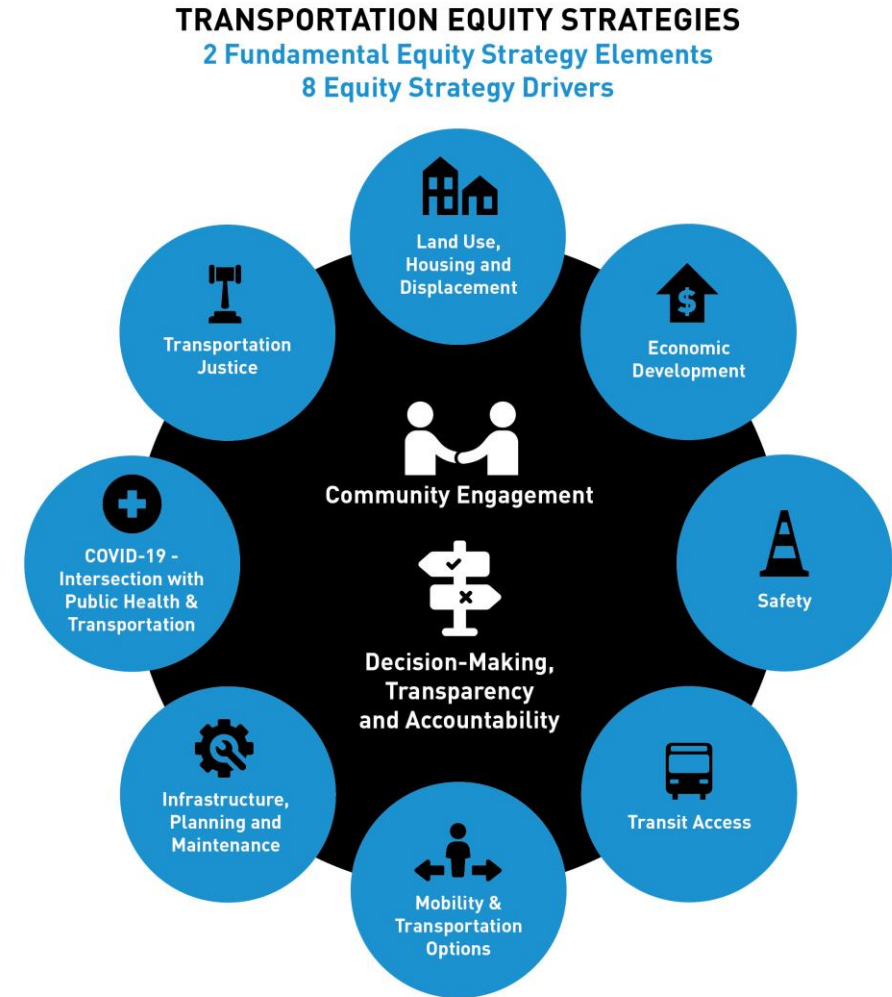
- **Reminder:** In 2019-2022, TEW co-developed SDOT's Transportation Equity Framework (TEF)
- **Since 2022, supported by SDOT staff, TEW members:**
 - Serve as community stewards of the TEF
 - Provide SDOT with policy & strategic guidance on equity
 - Meet ~6 hours/month
- **Examples of recent work**
 - Seattle Transportation Plan
 - Transportation Levy – Neighborhood Initiated Safety Partnership Program (NISPP)
 - Levy Equity Workplan



Questions?

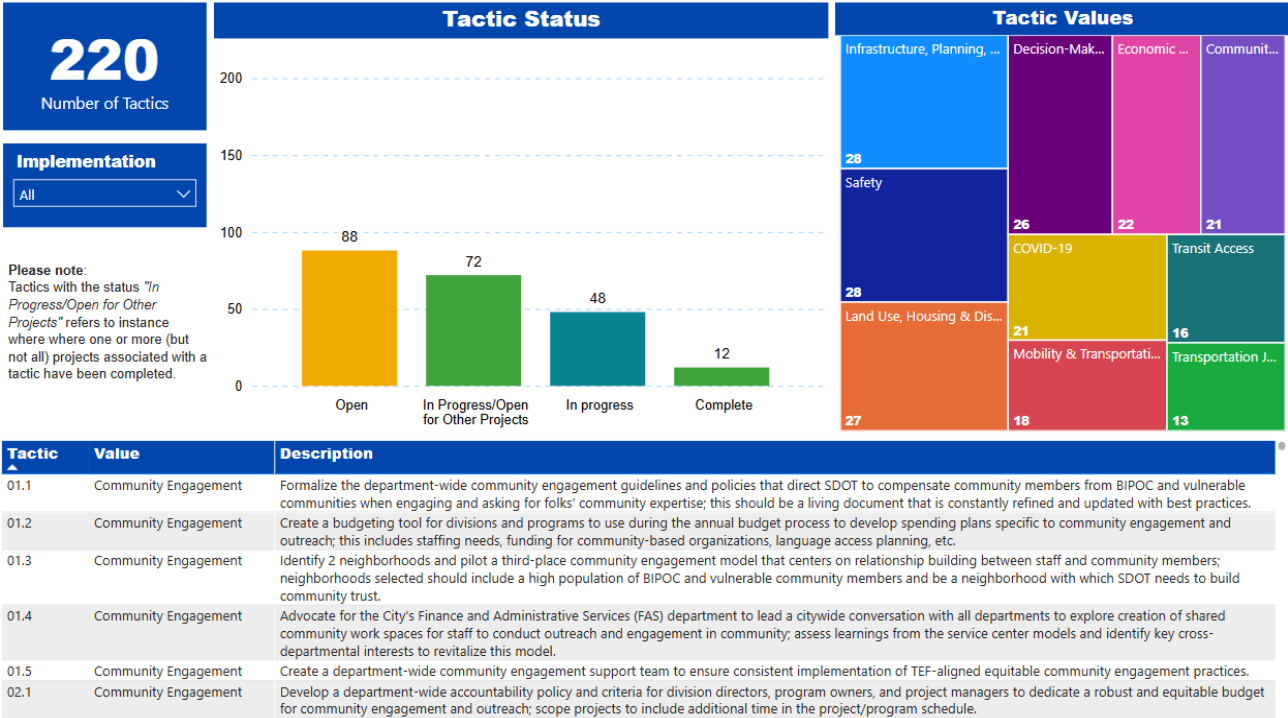
Transportation Equity Framework (TEF)

- Equity is everybody's work at SDOT
- The TEF is a roadmap for SDOT decision-makers, employees, stakeholders, partners, and community to collaboratively create an equitable transportation system.
- TEF is organized into 10 values & 220+ tactics
- If it's your first-time diving into the TEF, the [public dashboard](#) is a great resource (provided in your onboarding)



TEF Implementation & Tracking

- SDOT is in 4th year of implementation, with 142 of 220 tactics in progress or completed
- Opportunities to implement and integrate through the levy programs and projects
- Public TEF Monitoring tool: [Transportation Equity Framework Monitor](#)

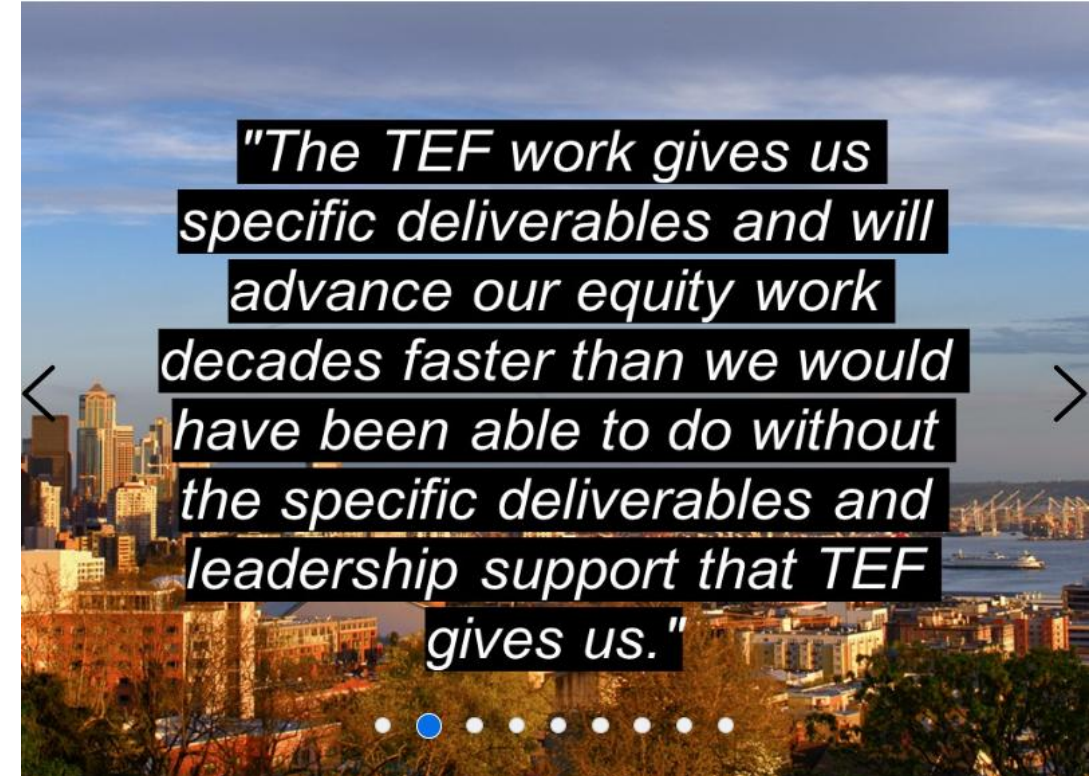


We closely track progress on the TEF both internally and externally (see Monitoring Tool screenshot above)

Equity is not only a deliverable; it's a process and practice

Shaping SDOT Culture

- Transportation Equity Implementation Intradepartmental Team (TEI-IDT)
 - Internal champions of the TEF
 - Support equity centered-decision making
 - Foster collaboration



Questions?

Levy Equity Workplan

Background & Progress To-Date



Several Types of Equity in this Context

Geographic distribution of investments

Ensuring improvements are prioritized in areas of greatest need/historical disinvestment, not just equal distribution citywide

Contracting equity

Use of Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses

Workforce equity

Priority Hire

Community engagement

Project selection, design, and construction

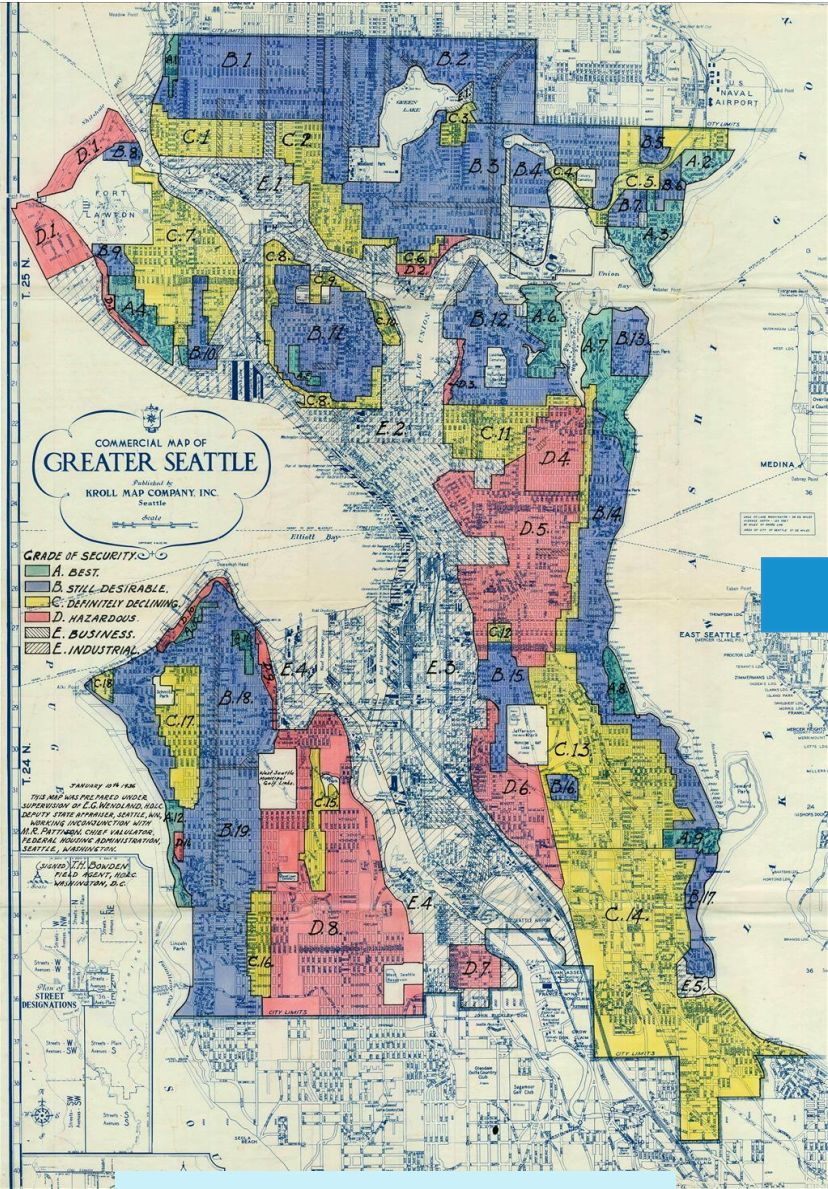
Construction impacts and mitigations

Helping ensure impacts don't disproportionately impact disinvested communities

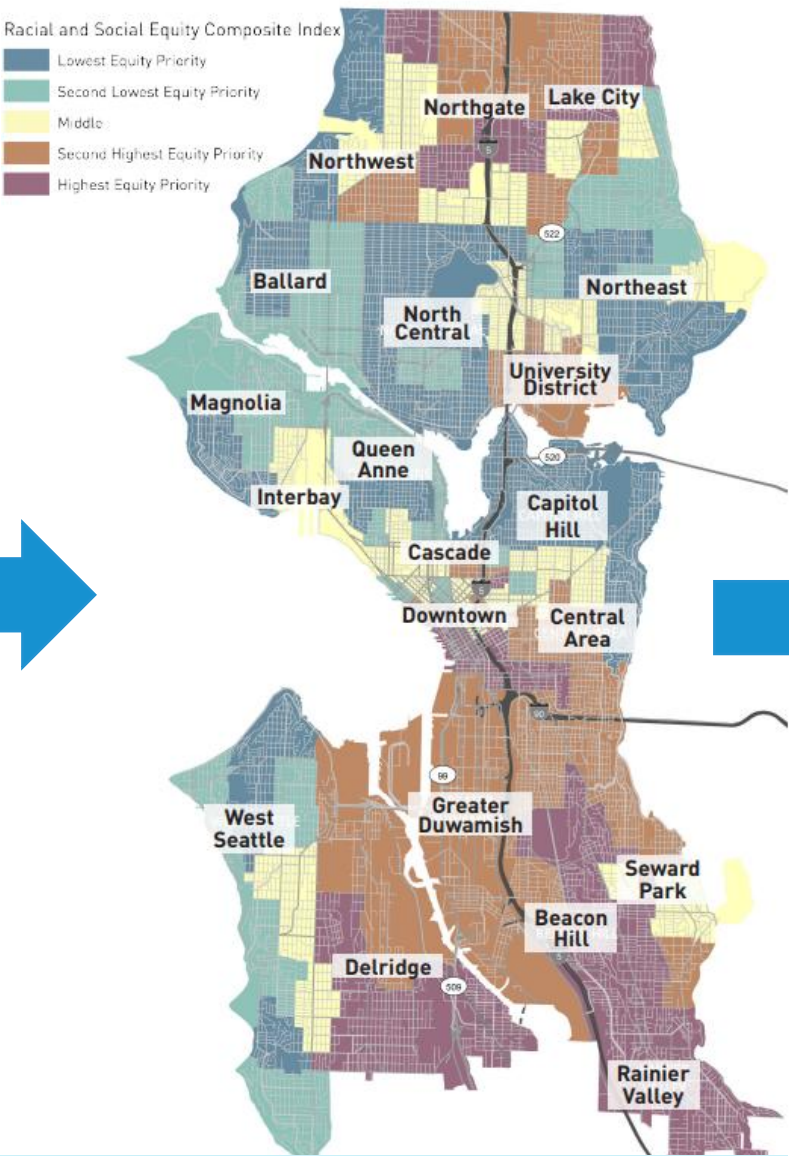
The Levy provides an opportunity to invest in various types of equity.

Why Invest Equitably

Redlining & historical disinvestment in certain neighborhoods contributes to continued disparities citywide



1940s Redlining Map



2020 Race and Social Equity Index

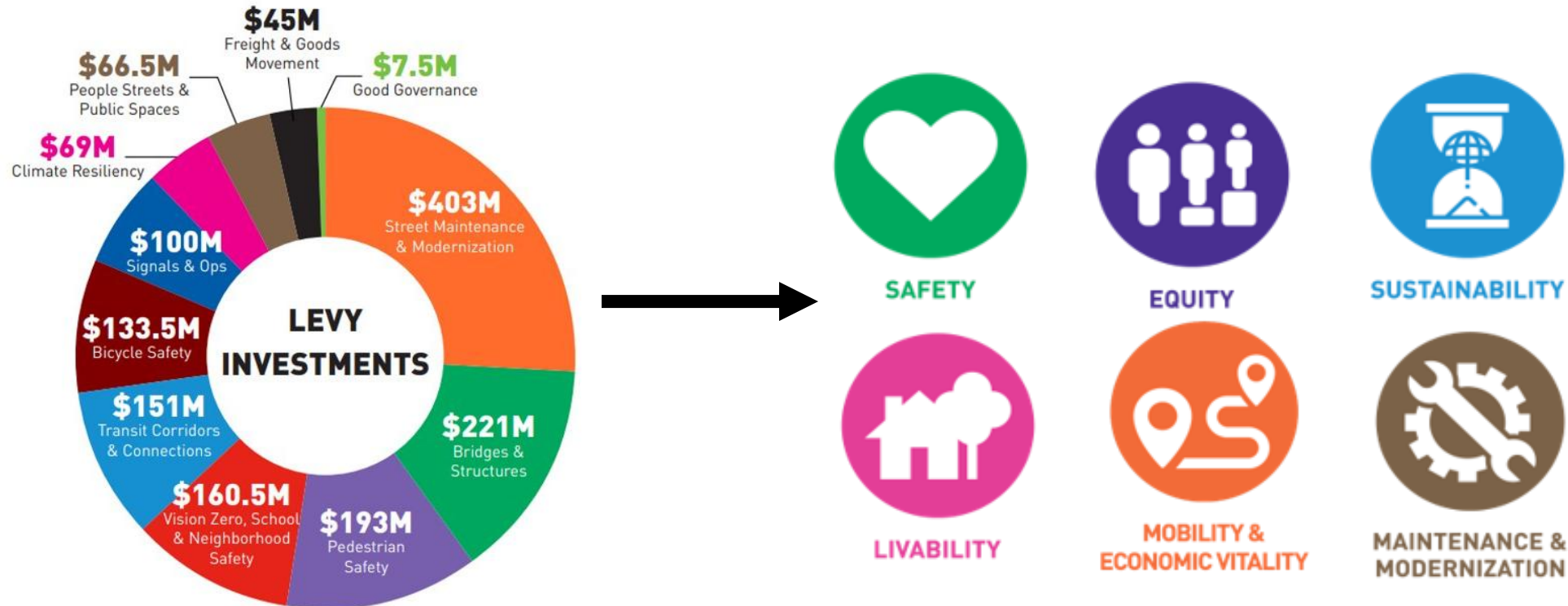


2022 High Injury Network

Centering Equity in the Seattle Transportation Levy

We will invest \$1.55 billion into transportation through the Levy, providing an opportunity to:

- Integrate and enhance equity **practices** across the department
- Make needed **investments** in historically underserved communities that create better **outcomes** for all



Levy Equity Workplan – What It Is

- **Focused on geographic distribution of investments**, understanding if improvements are prioritized in areas of greatest need/historical disinvestment
- Exploring if we can improve equitable distribution & enhance equitable implementation of Levy investments



Levy Equity Workplan – What We’ve Done So Far

- (1) Began implementing **TEF tactics** as part of the Seattle Transportation Levy & Levy Equity Workplan
- (2) Adopted the **Racial & Social Equity (RSE) Index** to guide work
- (3) Developed **tools** to understand distribution of Levy to Move Seattle projects and spending
- (4) Completed a **Racial Equity Toolkit** to guide investments in the Seattle Transportation Levy Proposal
- (5) **Partnered with TEW** to explore what successful equitable investment might look like in the Seattle Transportation Levy

SPOTLIGHT: (1) TEF Tactics applied in Levy Equity Workplan

(8.2) Develop SDOT work plans that **equitably allocate resources for capital projects and maintenance efforts** in communities hit hardest by COVID.

(19.4) **Focus maintenance resources in communities and neighborhoods currently underserved** by government that have significant maintenance needs; use findings from the racial equity assessment.

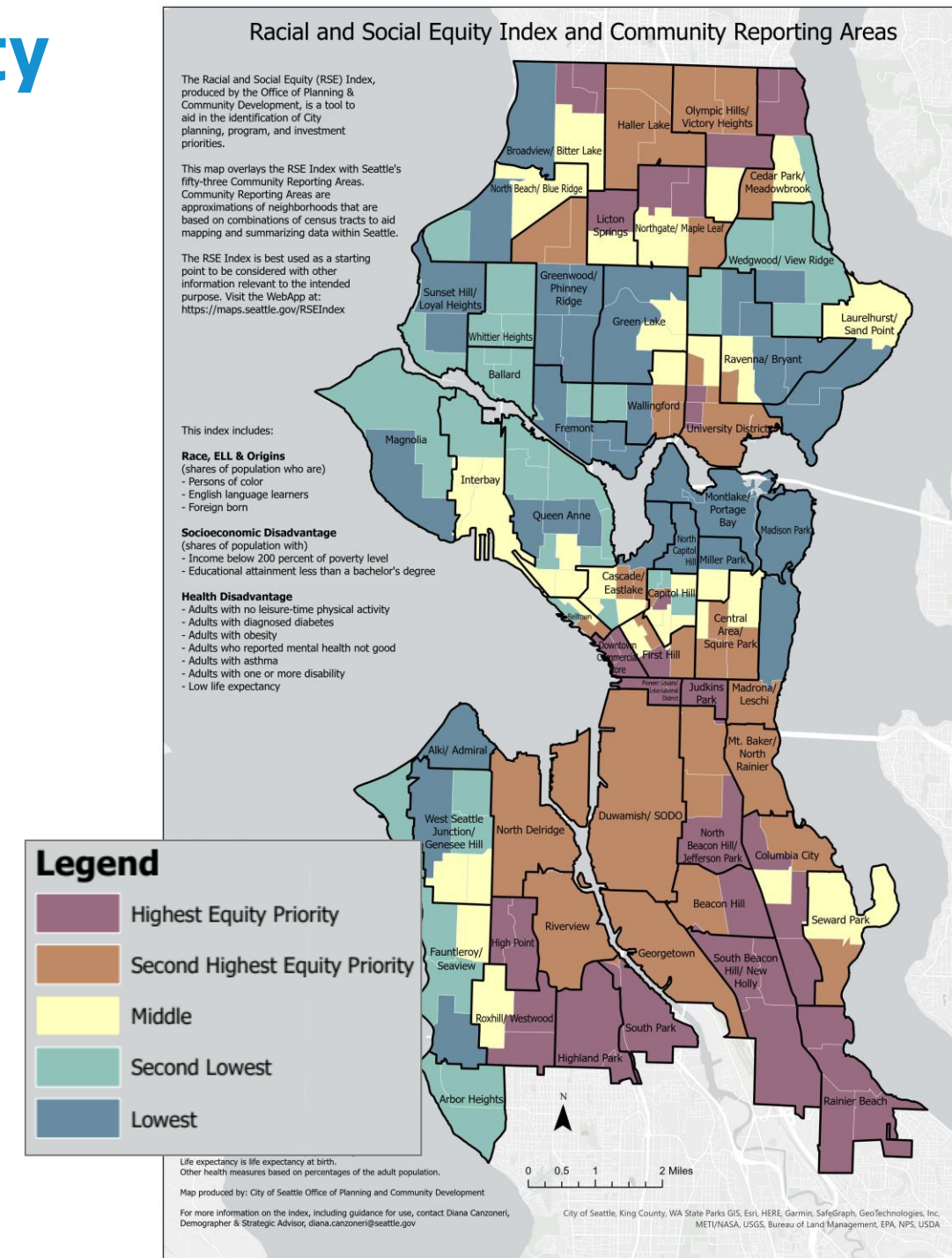
(20.2) **Add equity-related data layers** into all SDOT-produced web maps and ensure that staff are trained and use this as part of their research, decision-making, project outline, etc.

NOTE: This is just a snapshot of the many TEF tactics associated with the delivery of the Transportation Levy.



SPOTLIGHT: (2) Racial & Social Equity (RSE) Index

- Identifies **high equity priority areas** based on census tracts where disadvantaged/priority populations make up a large share of residents
- Used by City of Seattle to **inform design and prioritization** of programs and investments
- First developed in 2017 & updated every ~3 years; most recent **update in 2023**



Deeper Dive: What the RSE Index tells us

City often considers **highest** and **second highest** disadvantaged census tracts to be **equity priority areas** for investments.

These census tracts account for **40%** of Seattle's population, but:



50% of the citywide population of adults with one or more disability



55% of the citywide population of people of color



58% of the citywide total households under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

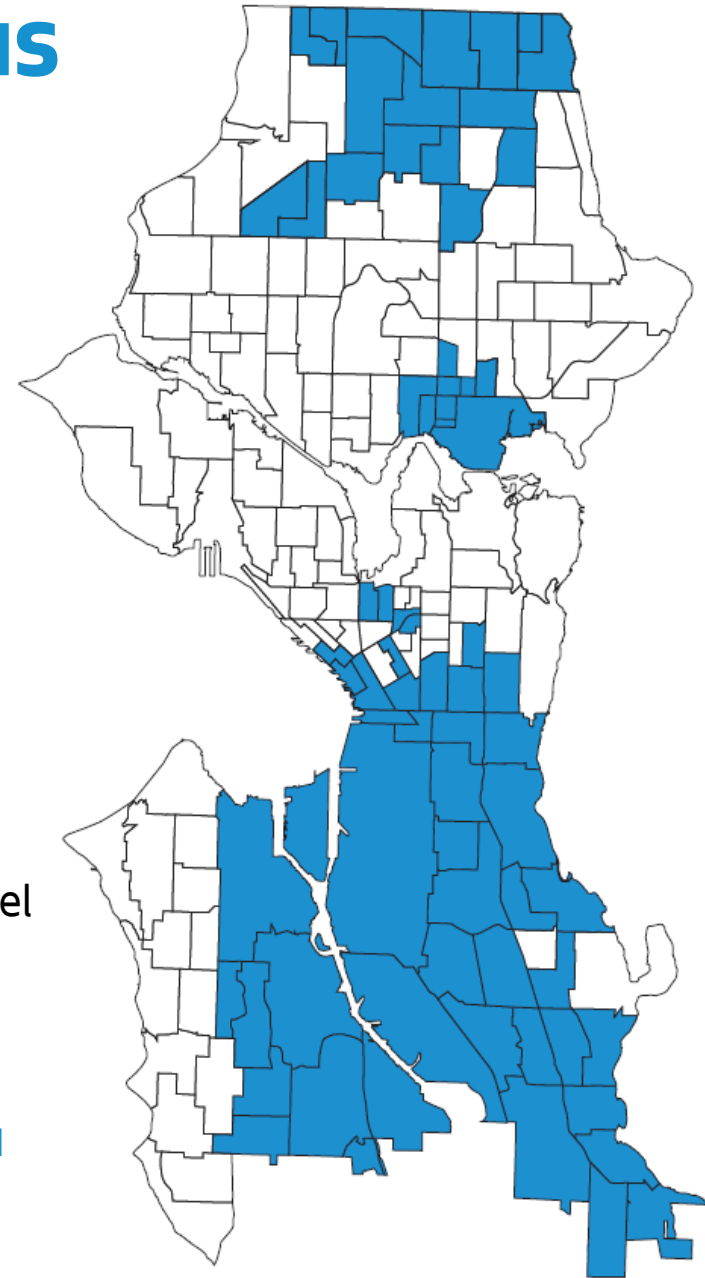


62% of the citywide foreign-born population



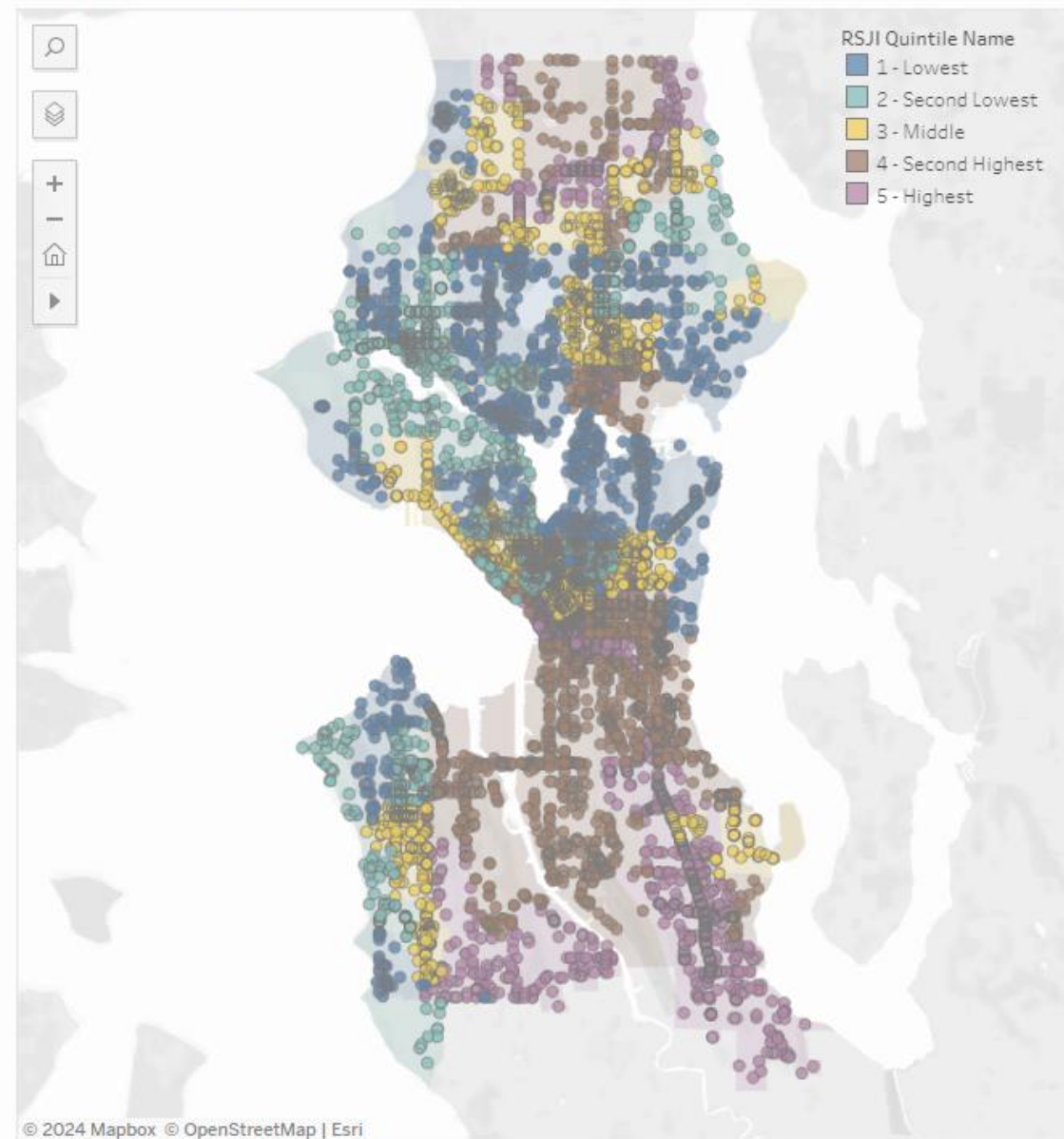
77% of the citywide population of English language learners

**Highest and
second-
highest
equity
priority areas**



SPOTLIGHT: (3) Developing Tools to Understand Investment Distribution

Levy Equity Map



- Supporting efforts to identify and develop tools to help SDOT understand distribution of deliverables and investments
- Created a draft internal map using 2023 & 2024 Levy to Move Seattle deliverable data
- Overlaid with Racial & Social Equity (RSE) Index

SPOTLIGHT: (5) TEW Partnership

- Partnership to **explore what success looks like** for **equitable distribution of investments** in the Seattle Transportation Levy
- Objectives:
 - Explore what successful equitable investment might look like in the Levy
 - Build TEW strategic and technical muscles related to equitable investment
- Work completed through activities including presentations, Journal and Circle Discussion, draft dashboard exploration



Are we on track for success?



How will we know when we get there?

Levy Equity Workplan - Looking Ahead

Key Proposed Action Areas (2025 - 2026):

- Support equity considerations in the development and implementation of program work plans
- Support efforts to establish a public reporting approach for the levy
- Explore and develop mapping and data tools to help us understand the distribution of our investments

Questions?

Demonstrating Accountability to Levy Commitments

Serena Lehman

Ensure **alignment between SDOT staff and LOC** on what it means to **demonstrate accountability** for each of the 60+ commitments listed in Attachment A.

Types of commitments to voters in the levy (Attachment A)

- Widgets

- Example: 5 new neighborhood greenways on residential streets

- Geographic specificity

- Example: Add concrete protected bike lanes on S Henderson St

- Programmatic investments

- Example: Implement bridge preventative maintenance program

- Outcome-focused

- Example: Supporting the expansion of electric vehicle charging
 - Example: Expand tree species diversity in areas that historically have had less investment in tree planting and care.

Each program area also has a planned overall investment amount.

Breadth and flexibility are built in purposefully, to allow us to be responsive as we learn more about needs in an area.

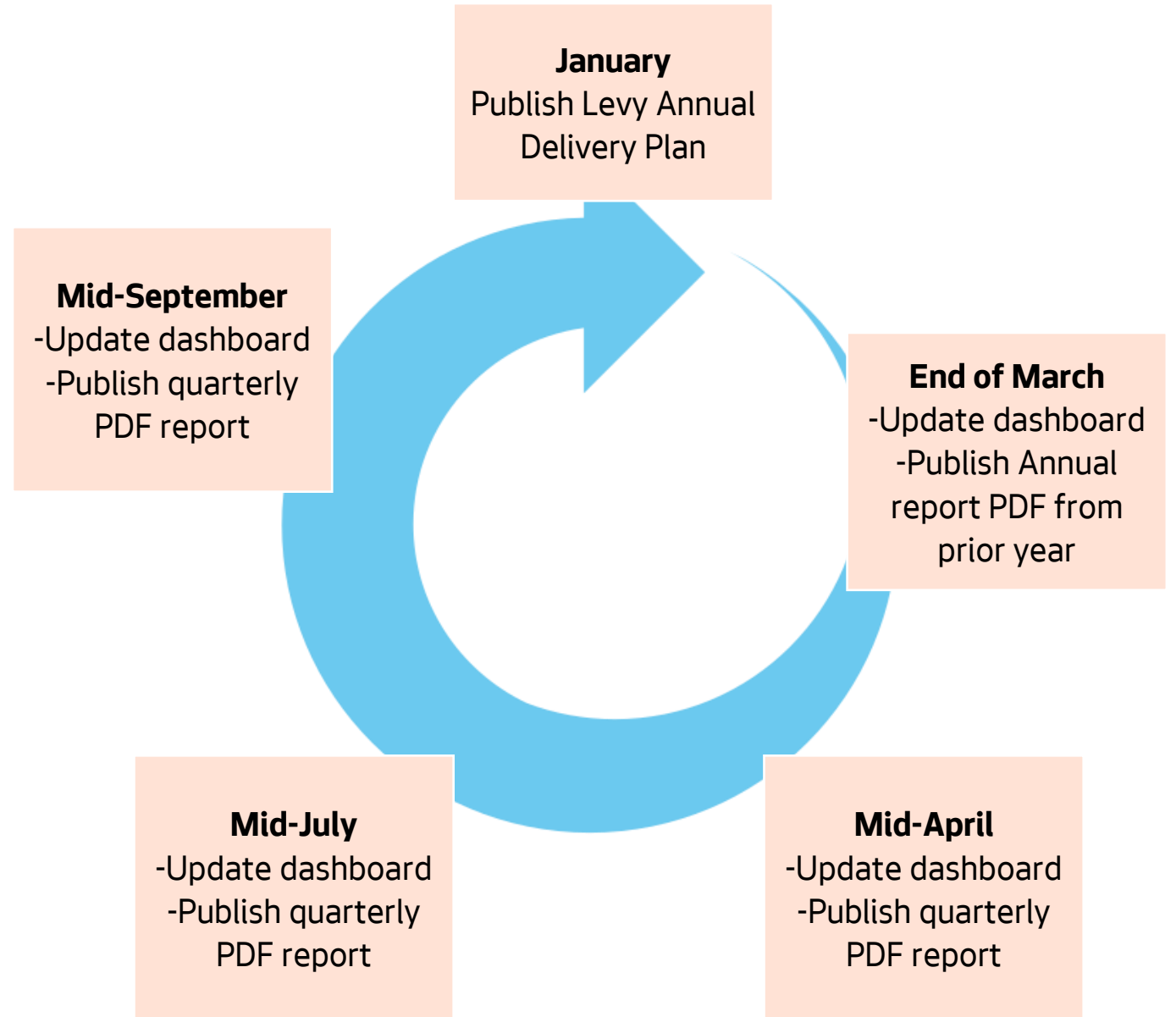
Next Steps

- With the LOC, preview draft dashboard for Levy deliverables
- Bring the LOC along in the development of definitions of accountability
 - Conversation on reporting in November will be next milestone
- Ongoing evaluations, in partnership with LOC, of what accountability looks like for more flexible commitments

Planned Levy Reporting Cycle

Future Reporting on Spending & Levy Delivery

Every 2 years, SDOT will also report on Seattle Transportation Plan performance metrics.



Questions

City Budget Update

Chris Godwin

Mayor's 2026 Proposed Budget

September 23: Mayor transmitted the 2026 Proposed Budget

Priorities

- Implementing levy
- Providing core services
- Making key investments to support major transportation projects

- **Budget maintains commitment to:**

- Meaningful, forward-looking investments
- Good governance
- Safety
- Investing in our communities

- **Aligning on levy needs**

- Continuing to hire staff to build on strong start to levy delivery

Seattle Transportation Levy Budget

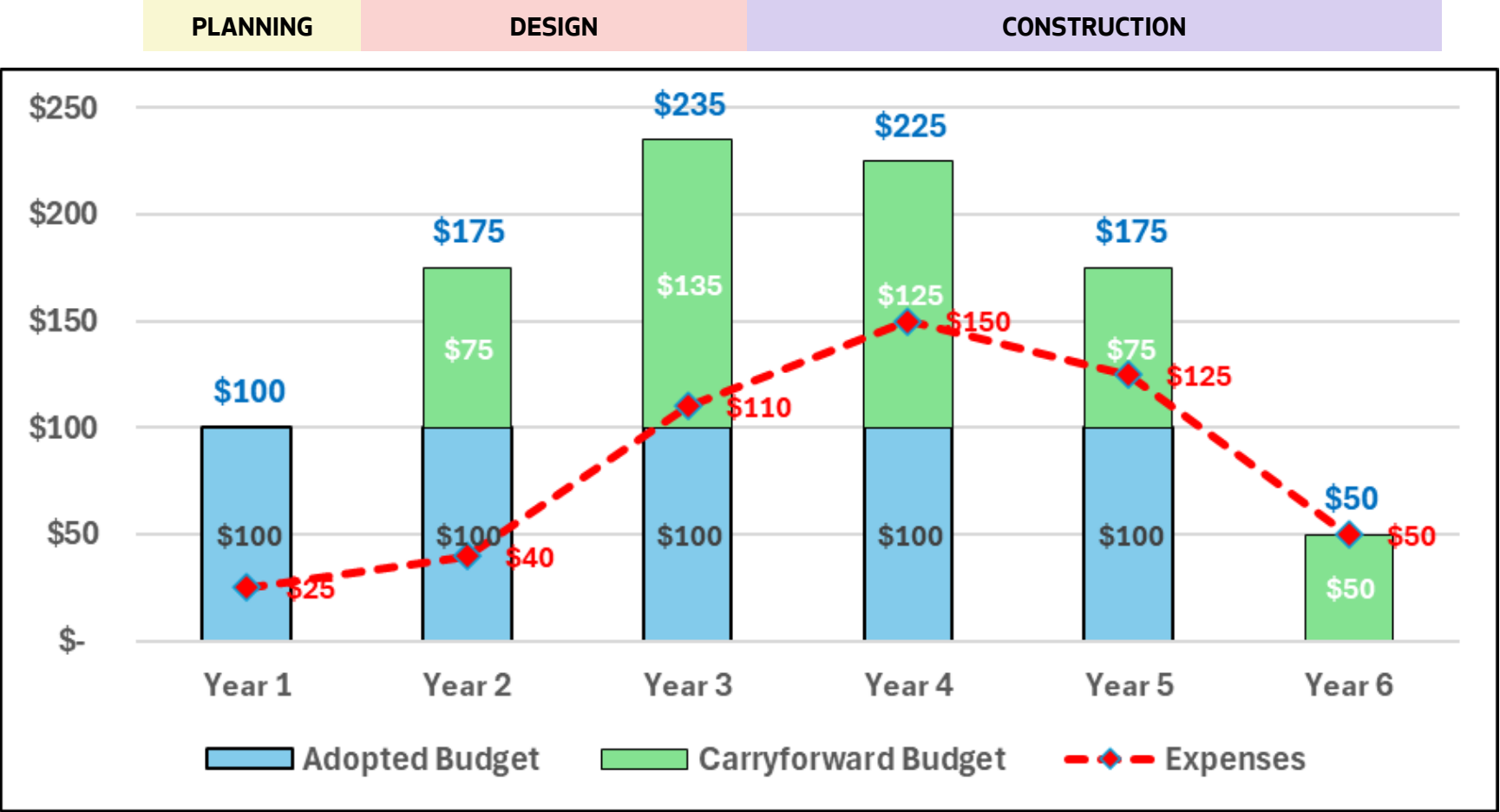
2025: \$174.6 million

2026: \$188.6 million



Reminder: Budgets and Project Spending do not move in Lockstep

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



Revised 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.

Budget Next Steps & City Budget Resources

Key Dates

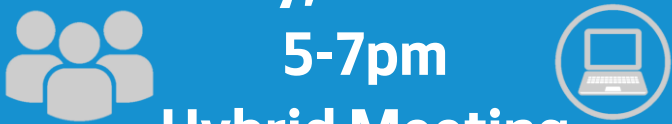
- **October 7 (today) & November 6:** Council public hearings
- **November 21:** Council final vote on the 2026 budget

Resources

- [Mayor's 2026 Proposed Budget Announcement](#)
- [2026 Proposed Budget](#)

What you can expect over the next few months

(Individual meeting topics may change as needed)

 **Tuesday, November 4**
5-7pm
Hybrid Meeting

Levy Reporting
Share draft online dashboard with LOC

 **Tuesday, December 2**
5-7pm
In Person Meeting

**LOC Roles, Responsibilities, and
Procedures Development**

Future Reporting Milestones

- **January LOC Meeting:** Dashboard published with Levy deliverable data from January through September 2025 (Q1-Q3)
- **February LOC Meeting:** 2026 Levy Delivery Plan
- **April LOC Meeting:** 2025 Levy Annual Report

Questions?



Thank you!

