

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, September 6, 2022 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Co-chairs: Inga Manskopf, Sam Ferrara

Location: Video Conference, in-person at City Hall

Members Present: Sam Ferrara, Inga Manskopf, Kevin Werner, Dennis Gathard, Jessica Nguyen, Joe Laubach, Maria Sumner, Geri Poor, Alex Pedersen (City Council), Saroja Reddy (City Budget Office)

Members Absent: Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Lisa Bogardus, Steven Sawyer

Guests: Simon Blenski, Kalen Carney, Monica Dewald, Christiana Farrell, Katie Olsen, Brian Sperry, Francisca Stefan (all SDOT), Hannah Thoreson (City Council Staff), Art Kuniyuki (Transit Advisory Board), Ryan Packer (The Urbanist), Joanna Cullen

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:03PM

Welcome and roll call

Sam F: Conducted a roll call for committee members and an overview of the agenda.

Public Comment

Sam F: Asked if anyone wanted to give public comment.

No public comment.

Agenda item #1: Neighborhood Street Fund (NSF)

Part One – NSF Overview

Simon B [presented about the Neighborhood Street Fund](#), the City program that allows communities to proposed projects that are built by SDOT. He noted that NSF funding comes from Move Seattle Levy, and there is about \$24M divided into three-year cycles. Eligible projects go through community prioritization process before being presented to LOC for consideration. The LOC is tasked with selecting final projects that get built each cycle.

Kevin W.: Asked about additional challenges and what SDOT would hope to see for this program moving forward.

Simon B.: No major challenges outside of what was shared.

Monica D.: We have continued to be very adaptable in this program.

Joe L.: What is the next action step for the LOC for NSF?

Sam F.: Simon will walk through projects, and over the next two months the LOC will review and reconvene in November to select projects.

Inga M.: In terms of funding, is there enough, or are there any issues spending?

Simon B.: Financially the program is in a good spot, and we generally come in pretty close to what is budgeted.

Part Two – NSF Cycle Project Selection

Simon B. provided an overview of the NSF third cycle and next steps for project selection. SDOT has reviewed 58 project candidates for eligibility, and narrowed down to 17 eligible project candidates. SDOT has \$4M for the third cycle, which will fund 7-11 projects. By October 25, LOC should review all projects in the packet provided, and fill out the online survey to share their preliminary project ranking. This is not a formal vote, just an initial screening. In the November 1 meeting the LOC will vote on projects.

Joe L.: Would LOC members benefit from visiting site locations?

Simon B.: Last cycle there were organized site visits, but this cycle, due to COVID, the project packet was designed to provide enough information without a site visit. LOC members are encouraged to do their own site visits. If you do site visits with other LOC members, ensure that you do not have a quorum.

Joe L.: All 17 projects are in the equity areas; just to clarify, is the LOC comfortable with no projects in many other areas of the city such as Magnolia/Queen Anne/Capitol Hill?

Sam F.: We have explored options in the past of choosing one project in each district and then distributing projects among equity areas; I recommend we stay the course per the approach Simon outlined. The LOC discussed and approved this approach in prior meetings.

Monica D.: It was a long time ago when we proposed this to the LOC, but last year the LOC did agree to this approach.

Inga M.: I can back that up; we did agree to this approach last year.

Geri P.: How long might it take to review the project list?

Simon B.: Could take a half day to review packet and projects. If LOC members chose to do site visits it could take a couple days.

Joe L.: Is there coordination with other SDOT programs to complete some types of projects?

Simon B.: During the review process, projects are reviewed with entire portfolio of other SDOT projects, and through this process some partnership opportunities have been identified.

Inga M.: How are stormwater enhancements relevant to transportation?

Simon B.: Managing stormwater is part of the street/right-of-way; this addresses issues like ponding/draining and walking on the street.

Councilmember Pedersen: I see it would cost \$7.65M total for all 17 projects; currently there is \$4M in budget to select and fund a subset of these projects. If the LOC is interested in exploring avenues to increase budget and fully fund all projects, they could signal that and try to get support of Council and Executive to include that funding in the 2023-2024 budget. Revised revenue forecast could provide additional funding options.

Agenda item #2: Levy Portfolio Status Update

Francisca S. presented background on the Levy Portfolio Status Update work, 2015 Levy Ordinance Goals, and 2018 Levy Workplan.

Francisca shared a reminder of LOC purpose/roles/responsibilities and noted that the 2015 Ordinance is the North Star for SDOT. The 2015 Ordinance outlined 30 programs, but for 8 programs the 2015 Ordinance did not outline numerical targets. The 2018 Workplan filled in numerical targets for the programs and made some modifications for the small number of programs that did not have sufficient funding to deliver on projects in the 2015 Ordinance. Francisca then reviewed the Levy Portfolio Status Update Principles of Success endorsed by LOC in 2021 and outlined a timeline for the next few months related to the 2023-2024 budget and Levy Portfolio Status Update.

Agenda item #3: Committee business

Timeline for LOC recommendation letter

Inga M.: Shared a revised timeline to provide recommendation at end of Levy; added an additional month for time to review Future Transportation Funding Package (FTFP) from SDOT in January/February 2024, and delivering LOC recommendation letter in March 2024.

Kevin W.: Interested in if SDOT can provide and help us understand best practices for what other cities do for transportation levies.

Katie O.: Yes, to the extent we are able to, we are happy to gather information on other cities' transportation funding. We will check in with the co-chairs about what information would be most helpful.

Joe L.: LOC is in a great position to offer feedback/advice on next Levy. How does the development of the Levy work?

Councilmember Pedersen: SDOT will do the work of putting together what they want to see included in the replacement. The Mayor/Executive could amend this, and Council will put it on the ballot. Council can't "campaign" for it once it is on the ballot.

Joe L.: Are revenue sources other than property taxes (like sales tax) part of the discussion?

Councilmember Pedersen: Yes, there are other revenue sources besides levies. Other revenue sources could be on the table such as commercial parking tax, developer fees, etc. Sales tax might not be welcomed by the City.

Saroja R.: We don't have a lot of authority to raise revenues. We generally don't bond against this because bonds are limited to the term of the levy.

Inga M.: Dennis G. has requested information and cost estimates for Bridge Seismic projects. Asked if anyone else would be interested in joining this meeting to ensure that when it takes place, we are in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. If others are interested, they are to email Katie O. by tomorrow, September 7.

Subcommittee and modal board reports

Geri P. (Freight Advisory Board): At our last meeting we had a briefing on the Georgetown to Downtown bike facility; new members to be confirmed on September 20 to fill vacancies.

Maria S. (Pedestrian Advisory Board): New members onboarded last month (August), and we are back to full capacity. We had Sound Transit come and give update on vertical conveyances (escalators/elevators). We have also been taking time to report on collision data on a monthly basis with Vision Zero. Year-to-date we have had 14 fatalities (5 people walking, 3 people biking, 6 people driving cars/motorcycles/mopeds) 108 serious injuries, and 808 injuries. We have an upcoming field trip to Aurora Ave N with Aurora Reimagined Coalition to walk the corridor.

Art K. (Transit Advisory Board): We have one current vacancy, and at the end of September we have a retreat where we will make officer elections. At the last meeting we dealt with youth fares. We are looking forward to the development of the Seattle Transportation Plan.

Bicycle Advisory Board: No member present for update.

Meeting minutes for approval

Sam F.: We have the August meeting minutes for approval.

Inga M.: Proposed edits to meeting minutes, including that Inga facilitated the meeting, and adding two clarifying sentences on the timeline for the LOC recommendation letter.

Sam F.: Motion to approve meeting minutes. Minutes approved with those edits.

Adjourn: 6:44 PM

DRAFT