



Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

*Stewards of the
Pedestrian Master Plan*

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To: Seattle City Council

From: Pedestrian Advisory Board

Date: November 13, 2017

Subject: Using Move Seattle and SDOT Funds as Alternative Funding for Homelessness and Human Services Investments

The Pedestrian Advisory Board would like to express its dismay upon hearing the proposal on Monday, November 8th to redirect \$9,151,600 in funding from the Move Seattle Transportation Levy (Ordinance 124796) by removing the limitation requiring a minimum annual General Subfund appropriation to SDOT. Specific proposed cuts that would directly impact the safety of pedestrians and walkability in Seattle include*:

- Cutting proposed SDOT appropriations that use the Commercial Parking Tax for ADA improvements (\$3,600,000)
- Cutting SDOT appropriations for neighborhood traffic control (\$298,000)
- Cutting SDOT appropriations for stairway rehabilitations to implement the Pedestrian Master Plan (\$730,000)

Additionally, the proposal suggests modifying restrictions on use of revenue in the School Safety Traffic and Pedestrian Improvement Fund to authorize use of school zone camera revenues to allow them to be used for purposes not related to traffic safety (\$931,304).

While we appreciate the urgent and dire need to find funding for homelessness services, we don't believe that pitting one vulnerable population against another, all to avoid using a new funding source, is the appropriate way of solving the issue. The homeless population in Seattle is more likely to be impacted by budget cuts that would reduce funding for pedestrian safety and infrastructure than the general population. Studies in Clark County, Nevada show that the pedestrian death rate from motor vehicle crashes was 30.7 for the homeless population, compared to an average of 1.25 for the rest of the population.**

This proposal is a step backward on pedestrian safety, our Vision Zero program, and Seattle's stated transportation. This proposal betrays the trust of those who voted to overwhelmingly pass the Move Seattle levy.

We strongly encourage you to vote no on this proposal.

*Source: 2018 Seattle City Council Green Sheet Tab 357, Action 1, Option A, Version 1

**Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6328.pdf>

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor and all the offices of the city on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning insofar as they relate to the pedestrian safety and access.

~City Council Resolution
28791