

three-year report  
spring 2010

# BRIDGINGtheGAP



# Letter from the Committee

This three-year report is produced as a part of the Bridging the Gap (BTG) Oversight Committee's legislated duties. Established in 2007, the Oversight Committee provides accountability on the use of BTG funds through monitoring revenues and expenditures, and program and project implementation. The committee, composed of 15 members from across the city, is an advisory body on issues related to the BTG Levy Program.

Over the first three years of the levy the committee reviewed BTG projects serving all parts of our city: neighborhoods, commuters, bicyclists, pedestrians, and the freight community. We actively focused on how BTG is being integrated into other planning and programming at the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). To ensure integration with the BTG program, the committee looked into and commented on programs such as Complete Streets, the Bicycle Master Plan, the Pedestrian Master Plan, and implementation of the Neighborhood Street Fund large project program.

The committee worked with SDOT as they explored options to accelerate the paving program as costs began to rise, and we provided comments to both the mayor and city council on repeal of the Employee Hours Tax. The committee had lively discussions surrounding all of these issues and we tried to provide useful feedback to the department as it made its decisions.

The committee believes strongly that accessibility to the public is critical to assuring accountability. To help ensure accessibility, each of our quarterly meetings is held in a different part of the city with opportunities for the public to share their views on BTG issues. So far, our meetings have been in Meadowbrook, Ballard, Queen Anne, Southeast Seattle, Miller Park, International District, Downtown, Delridge, and Georgetown.

As evidenced in this report, the committee believes excellent progress has been made by the department over the first three years of Bridging the Gap. We look forward to many more years of a well-run and highly accountable BTG program.

The committee would like to say thank you to Seattle voters for passing BTG in 2006. Many of the improvements highlighted in this report would not have been possible with their support.

Thank you!

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.seattle.gov/transportation/btg\\_oversight.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/btg_oversight.htm)

Ref Lindmark and Ann Martin, Co-Chairs

## Current members:

Committee Co-Chairs Ann Martin and Ref Lindmark, Chuck Ayers, Allegra Calder, City of Seattle Director of Finance Glen Lee, Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, Betty Spieth, John Coney, Holly Krejci, Bill LaBorde, Jeremy Valenta, Peter Whitehead and Kristen Lohse

## Past members:

Barbara Culp, Thao Tran, Jeff Frkonja, Rick Sepolen, Christina O'Claire, Councilmember Jan Drago, Mike McGinn, Darryl Smith, Dongho Chang, Tom Williams and Dwight Dively

# Bridging the Gap Highlights



## What is Bridging the Gap?

In 2006, Seattle voters passed a nine-year transportation levy for maintenance and improvements known as Bridging the Gap (BTG). The levy was complemented by a commercial parking tax and an employee hours tax. The levy funds programs to address the maintenance backlog for paving; sidewalk development and repairs; bridge repair, rehabilitation and seismic upgrades; tree pruning and planting; transit enhancements; and other much needed maintenance work. Funding also supports projects that develop and implement the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans, create a Safe Routes to School Program, improve transit connections, and help neighborhoods get larger projects built through the Neighborhood Street Fund large project program.

## First Three Years

The first three years of BTG were very productive. Work plans were developed, accountability measures established, and asset management programs upgraded. Improvements to streets, sidewalks, trees, bridges, signs, and signals began in earnest. Development of Bicycle and Pedestrian Master plans was completed and work to implement both will continue into the future.

The maintenance backlog was decreased and needed repairs were made. Seattle roads are smoother and safer, street name signs are easier to read, new sidewalks are being constructed in communities that need them, and repairs to our established infrastructure like bridges, guardrails and sidewalks are being completed. While much has been accomplished, we still have work to do.

## Three Year Highlights

**Paving** – 89 lane miles were paved

**Trees** – 2,400 trees were planted

**Bike Lanes and Sharrows** – 93 miles of bike lanes and sharrows were installed

**Sidewalks** – 54 blocks of new sidewalk were constructed

**Sidewalk Repair** – 62 block faces were repaired

**Pedestrian Countdown Signals** – 93 intersections received countdown signals

**Neighborhood Street Fund Projects** – 17 projects were constructed

**Transit Service Hours** – 28,800 new service hours were acquired

**School Zone Signage** – 154 school zones received new signage

**Bridge Repair** – 984 bridge repairs were completed

**Bridge Rehabilitation** – East Duwamish Waterway Bridge was rehabilitated

# BTG Nine-Year Goals and Objectives

## Maintenance

- Reduce the infrastructure maintenance backlog
  - Rehabilitate 40 - 50 stairways
  - Prune 25,000 street trees to prevent safety and security hazards
  - Plant 8,000 new street trees
  - Replace over 150,000 small, faded street and regulatory signs
- Pave and repair Seattle streets
  - Resurface, restore, or replace approximately 200 lane-miles of arterial streets
- Make seismic upgrades to our most vulnerable bridges
  - Rehabilitate or replace 3-5 bridges and seismically retrofit 5 additional bridges

## Transit

- Increase transit speed and reliability
  - Enhance transit and safety improvements on 3 key transit corridors
  - Secure up to 45,000 hours of new Metro Transit service

## Pedestrian/Bike/Safety

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and create safe routes to school
  - Build 117 blocks of new sidewalks
  - Restripe 5,000 crosswalks
  - Create “Safe Routes to Schools” near 30 elementary schools
  - Support the development and implementation of a Pedestrian Master Plan
  - Provide funding to implement the Bicycle Master Plan
  - Add 4 miles of new multi-use paths
  - Repair or restore 144 blocks of sidewalks
  - Provide funding for neighborhood-identified street improvements

## Major Projects

- Contribute to three major capital improvement projects:
  - King Street Station
  - Mercer Corridor
  - Spokane Street Viaduct



## Three Year Accomplishments

### Improving Our Roads



- More than 95 lane-miles have been paved over the first three years of BTG, including: Denny Avenue, Dexter Avenue, Stone Way, Elliott Avenue, 15th Avenue West, First Avenue South, Boren Avenue, Madison Street, Second Avenue, Fourth Avenue, Fifth Avenue, Marion Street, 16th Avenue SW and Fauntleroy Way.
- More than 8,500 linear feet of new guardrail has been installed.
- Six crash cushions have been installed.

### Upgrading Our Infrastructure

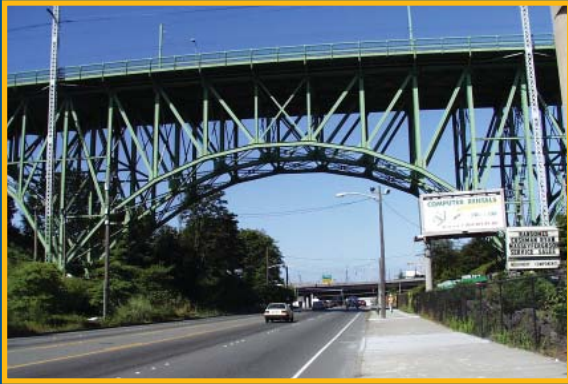


- Over three years more than 984 repairs have been completed to bridges that provide critical links between neighborhoods and commercial areas.
  - Sixteen stairways have been rehabilitated, making it easier to navigate through neighborhoods.
  - More than 24,000 regulatory signs have been replaced and more than 3,800 intersections have new street name signs.
- Nearly 2,500 trees have been planted and 8,500 trees have been pruned, improving their health and preserving and growing Seattle's urban forest.

# Maintenance Programs

## Three Year Accomplishments

### Rehabilitating and Seismically Upgrading Seattle's Bridges



- Completed first bridge rehabilitation project. The East Duwamish Waterway Bridge underwent an extensive rehabilitation in 2009. Improvements include:
  - Correcting structural deficiencies
  - Replacing the existing asphalt surface with a four-inch thick concrete slab
  - Replacing the expansion joints
  - Repairing potholes and cracks in concrete
- Design work was completed on three additional bridge projects – Albro over Argo, Dr. Jose Rizal and 15th Avenue NE at NE 105th Street. Construction is expected to begin in 2010.

# Transit Programs

## Increase Transit Speed and Reliability

- More than 28,000 new hours of transit service have been secured thanks to a partnership between BTG and King County Metro's Transit Now Initiative. Service has been increased on routes 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 26, 28, 44, and 48.
- Design work is complete and construction is scheduled to begin in early 2010 on two transit corridor projects:
  - Rainier/Jackson
  - Third Avenue/Belltown
- Design is approximately 30% complete on three other corridors:
  - Ballard
  - Market/45th
  - West Seattle
- To date, BTG Transit funding has leveraged \$5,397,000 in federal grant funding.

## Three Year Accomplishments

### Improving Pedestrian Safety



- A comprehensive inventory of city sidewalks was completed, enabling better management of this vital asset by the city.
  - A Pedestrian Master Plan was developed and implementation started. 25 early implementation projects were identified and completed in 2009.
  - Created 53 new blocks of sidewalk through our Pedestrian and Bike Program.
  - Repaired more than 60 block faces through our Sidewalk Safety and Repair Program.
- More than 2,600 crosswalks were remarked and pedestrian countdown signals were installed at more than 90 intersections.

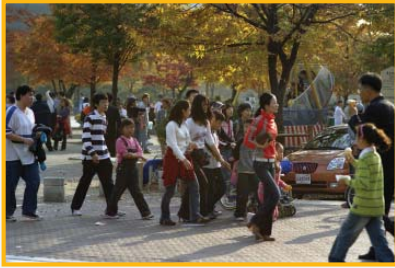
### Improving Bicycle Safety



- Implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan continues and is on track.
  - More than 93 miles of bike lanes and sharrows have been installed over three years and a maintenance schedule was implemented in 2009, with more than 48 miles restriped.
  - Nearly 34 miles of bike routes have been signed across the city, making it easier to navigate.
- More than two miles of multi-use trails have been completed, including extending the Burke-Gilman Trail from 60th to Golden Gardens.
  - More than 45 miles of bike trails have been inspected, resulting in 95 maintenance projects being completed.

# Pedestrians, Bike and Safety Programs

## Creating Safe Routes to School



In 1969, approximately 50% of children walked or bicycled to school. Today, fewer than 15% of children walk or bicycle to school. The Safe Routes to School program aims to reverse this trend by creating safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to and from schools. Over the past three years, Safe Routes to School Projects were completed at 14 elementary schools:

- Arbor Heights
- Broadview Thomson
- Summit K-12
- Sacajawea
- Bailey Gatzert
- Northgate
- Blaine
- Cleveland High School
- Sanislo
- Kimball
- Concord
- Wing Luke
- Dunlap
- North Beach

## Delivering Neighborhood Projects



- Seventeen neighborhood projects were constructed across the city as part of the Neighborhood Street Fund Large Projects.
- This program sets aside \$1.5 million annually from the BTG Levy for neighborhood projects.

### • Projects include:

- Greenwood Sidewalk Project
- Queen Anne Pedestrian Improvements
- Alki Sidewalk Project
- Lander Festival Street
- Columbia City Pedestrian Improvements







## KING STREET STATION

- King Street Station is an important part of Seattle's history. For over one hundred years it has improved connections, serving as a gateway for millions of travelers coming into Seattle and the Pacific Northwest.
- Work to restore this jewel has begun and BTG will contribute \$10 million to the restoration project.
- In the first three years several milestones were reached. They included work to restore the clock tower and to both exterior and interior portions of the building.
- Improvements include repairs to the finial on top of the station tower roof, repairs to the tower's glass tile roof and to the tower clock faces.
- Repairs to the station's neon "King Street Station" sign, installation of new ceramic roof on main station tower, and installation of a new catwalk system in the station's attic were also made.

## TWO-WAY MERCER CORRIDOR

- The Two-way Mercer Corridor Project is funded and ready to begin construction.
- Improvements include: widening Mercer to create a two-way boulevard, narrowing Valley Street and incorporating elements of the new Lake Union Park, providing new and wider sidewalks, improving connections to transit and adding bicycle lanes.
- The project replaces major utility infrastructure and incorporates sustainable elements. It supports the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project (SR 99) and helps reconnect South Lake Union to downtown.



## SPOKANE STREET VIADUCT

- Significant improvements are underway to the South Spokane Street Viaduct, a 60-year-old elevated road that connects I-5 to the West Seattle Bridge.
- The project creates new access to streets from the upper Spokane roadway, reduces delays and improves safety on the lower Spokane roadway at railroad crossings, facilitates transit access between West Seattle and Downtown, enhances freight mobility and improves safety and traffic flow for all travel modes.
- A new off-ramp from the eastbound Spokane Street Viaduct to southbound Fourth Avenue S opens this fall.

# Three Year Cumulative Accomplishments

PROJECT	2007 RESULTS	2008 RESULTS	2009 RESULTS	TOTAL TO DATE
<b>TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT</b>				
Pedestrian countdown signals installed	26	27	40	93
New sidewalk block faces built	13	15	26	54
Walking routes to schools improved for safety	1	7	6	14
Crosswalks remarked	789	1,082	810	2,681
Neighborhood projects constructed	-	1	16	17
Speed watch trailers deployed	68	66	67	201
<b>Bike and Trail Projects</b>				
Bike lanes and sharrows striped (in miles)	21	36	36	93
Bike lanes and sharrows restriped (in miles)	0	0	48	48
Bike routes signs installed (in miles)	4	11	19	34
Bike trail segments built	2	4	2	8
Trail inspection (in miles)	0	27	20	47
Urban trail and bikeway spot improvements	25	24	47	96
<b>Signage and Safety</b>				
School zones with safety signs improved	26	76	52	154
Regulatory street signs replaced	6,286	9,770	8,133	24,189
Street-name signs replaced (intersections)	1,043	1,076	1,716	3,857
Number of corridors with signs replaced	5	5	1	11
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Arterial lane-miles restriped	1,578	1,351	1,323	4,252
Crash cushions replaced	2	2	2	6
Guardrail replaced (in feet)	3,563	2,890	2,086	8,538
<b>Traffic Signals</b>				
New traffic signal requests evaluated	88	73	64	225
New signals installed	8	5	4	17
Signal beacons maintained	396	298	281	975
Traffic signals maintained	1,001	1,012	1,041	3,054
Traffic control cabinets replaced	20	20	10	50

PROJECT	2007 RESULTS	2008 RESULTS	2009 RESULTS	TOTAL TO DATE
Electrical traffic control devices evaluated	211	291	296	798
Electrical traffic control devices installed, modified or removed	121	127	50	298
Traffic control concerns evaluated	393	564	502	1,459
Left turn signal improvements evaluated	34	30	20	84
Left turn signal improvements installed	6	6	3	15
Left turns improved for pedestrian safety	2	6	-	8
Locations improved for pedestrian safety	12	10	11	33
Safety concerns evaluated	60	65	55	180
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Road lane-miles paved	27	41	29	97
Bridge repair requests completed	170	415	399	984
Stairways rehabilitated	5	7	4	16
<b>STREET MAINTENANCE</b>				
Sidewalk block faces repaired	14	24	28	66
<b>URBAN FORESTRY</b>				
Trees planted	681	923	818	2,422
Trees pruned	2,520	3,190	3,569	9,279
Landscape maintained (square feet)	-	43,596	44,011	87,607
<b>TRANSIT PLANNING</b>				
Transit hours secured	-	20,000	8,800	28,800
Transit corridor project implementation	0	3	0	3

# Financials

## Leveraging BTG Dollars

One of the commitments made by BTG was to maximize levy proceeds by actively pursuing grant funding and forming partnerships with other agencies and private entities. The Bridging the Gap program has been very successful with this undertaking. During the first three years of the program more than \$76 million in grant funding has been obtained. Funding has been received to improve bridges, roads, signals, bike trails and safe routes to school. Over \$60 million in major grants and partnerships are in place to help restore King Street Station, and make major improvements to the Spokane Street Viaduct and the Mercer Corridor. This includes \$30 million in TIGER Funding – Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, one of only two projects in Washington State funded through this federal program.

Bridging the Gap has kept its promise to maximize the funding available by seeking out grants and it will continue to deliver on that promise over the remaining six years of the program.

## 2007 - 2009 Bridging the Gap leveraged grants

Type of Grant (by category)	Number of applications awarded	Amount awarded
<b>Maintenance</b>		
Paving/Road Improvements	1	\$875,000
Signal Systems	1	\$3,375,000
Bridge Programs	1	\$1,500,000
<b>Pedestrian/Bike/Safety Programs</b>		
Pedestrian Programs	3	\$755,000
Bike Programs	3	\$2,450,000
Safety Programs	9	\$1,278,000
<b>Transit and Major Projects</b>		
Transit Programs	4	\$5,397,000
Spokane Street Viaduct Project	2	\$20,613,000
Mercer Corridor Project	3	\$39,000,000
King Street Station Project	3	\$799,000
<b>TOTAL AWARDED</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$76,042,000</b>



# 2009 BTG Financial Overview

Each year the BTG program combines SDOT general fund and BTG levy revenues to create a total budget. The spending plan represents the portion of the total budget that SDOT intends to spend in the year.

**2009 BTG revenues:** \$85.5 million (this includes \$23.5 of 2008 BTG carry forward)

**2009 Other City Funding Allocation:** \$214.1 million  
(this includes \$50.9M of 2008 non-BTG carry forward)

**2009 total program budget:** \$299.6 million

**2009 spending plan:** \$252.9 million\*

**2009 actual expenditures:** \$178.3 million

\* The majority of unspent 2009 budget represents larger capital projects that did not reach planned construction last year. These funds will automatically carryover and be used in 2010. Any other unspent levy dollars remain in the levy fund unless specific carryover was requested into the 2010 transportation budget.

## Cumulative Levy Spending Breakout (2007 – 2009)

The BTG levy approved by voters stipulated that certain percentages of the levy revenues be spent on different categories of projects on a cumulative basis. Cumulative numbers from 2007 – 2009 are shown below:

	Levy Requirement	Actual Levy Spending
Maintenance is...	No less than 67%	70% of the total levy
Pedestrian/Bike Safety is...	No less than 18%	22% of the total levy
Transit and Major Projects is...	No more than 15%	8% of the total levy
Neighborhood Street Fund...	First \$1.5 million of the levy annually	\$4.5 million

# BTG and Your Neighborhood

## Community Highlights

### EAST

### 3 YEAR TOTAL

Crosswalks	304
Street Name Signs	423
New Blocks of Sidewalk	2.8
Sidewalk Blocks Repaired	17.6
Trees Planted	196
Trees Pruned	1,002
Bike Lanes and Sharrows	15.2
Neighborhood Street Fund Projects	3

### NORTHEAST

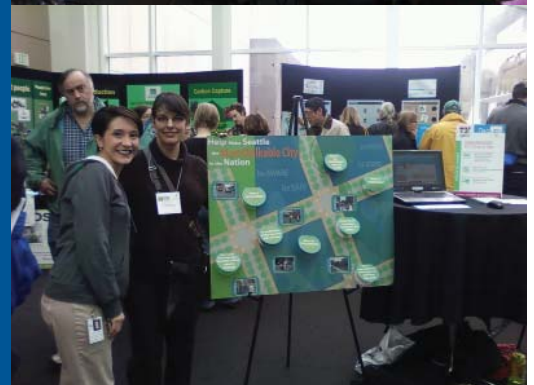
### 3 YEAR TOTAL

Crosswalks	234
Street Name Signs	722
New Blocks of Sidewalk	6.7
Sidewalk Blocks Repaired	4.9
Trees Planted	255
Trees Pruned	1,403
Bike Lanes and Sharrows	8.7
Neighborhood Street Fund Projects	2

### NORTHWEST

### 3 YEAR TOTAL

Crosswalks	268
Street Name Signs	785
New Blocks of Sidewalk	9.4
Sidewalk Blocks Repaired	7.8
Trees Planted	483
Trees Pruned	1,282
Bike Lanes and Sharrows	14.8
Neighborhood Street Fund Projects	3



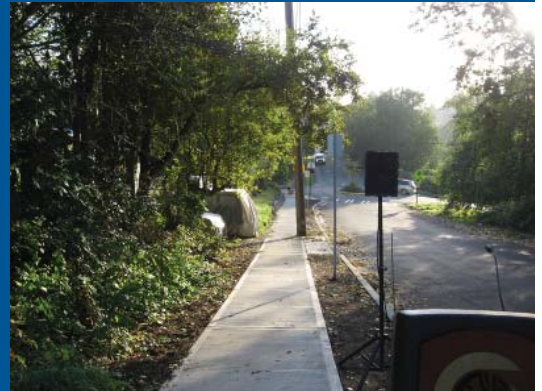


## Community Highlights

### SOUTHEAST

### 3 YEAR TOTAL

Crosswalks	186
Street Name Signs	499
New Blocks of Sidewalk	26.5
Sidewalk Blocks Repaired	1.2
Trees Planted	670
Trees Pruned	1,690
Bike Lanes and Sharrows	13.9
Neighborhood Street Fund Projects	3



### SOUTHWEST

### 3 YEAR TOTAL

Crosswalks	424
Street Name Signs	742
New Blocks of Sidewalk	5.8
Sidewalk Blocks Repaired	9.1
Trees Planted	673
Trees Pruned	2,631
Bike Lanes and Sharrows	21.06
Neighborhood Street Fund Projects	3



### WEST

### 3 YEAR TOTAL

Crosswalks	1,256
Street Name Signs	686
New Blocks of Sidewalk	3
Sidewalk Blocks Repaired	23.3
Trees Planted	26.2
Trees Pruned	1,271
Bike Lanes and Sharrows	18.5
Neighborhood Street Fund Projects	3



El Departamento de Transporte de Seattle valora sus comentarios y quiere estar seguro de que usted está consciente del trabajo que estamos realizando. Si necesita la traducción de este documento o si desea solicitar servicios de interpretación para una reunión pública o evento futuros, por favor entre en contacto con nosotros por el 206-684-8307.

Sở Giao Thông Seattle đánh giá cao ý kiến phản hồi của quý vị và muốn bảo đảm là quý vị biết rõ công việc mà chúng tôi đang thực hiện. Nếu quý vị muốn có bản chuyển ngữ của tài liệu này, hoặc nếu quý vị muốn yêu cầu dịch vụ thông dịch trong một buổi họp hay sự kiện cộng đồng nào đó trong tương lai, xin liên lạc với chúng tôi tại 206-684-8307.

西雅圖交通部重視你的意見並希望讓你了解我們正在做的工作。如果需要翻譯本文件，或在將來的公眾會議上需要口譯服務，請打電話 206-684-8307 聯絡我們。

시애틀 교통국은 여러분의 의견을 소중하게 생각합니다. 또한 여러분들이 교통국의 담당업무를 좀더 정확히 이해 할 수 있도록 노력하고 있습니다. 이문서의 한국어 번역 또는 향후 공청회 및 공공행사시 통역서비스가 필요할 경우 206-684-8307 로 문의하여 주시기 바랍니다.

Pinahalagahan ng Departamento ng Transportasyon ng Seattle ang iyong opinyon at saloobin at nais rin naming malaman mo kung ano ang aming ginagawa. Kung ikaw ay interesadong isalin sa ibang lengguahe ang dokumentong ito, o kung nais mong humingi ng tagapagsalin ng salita sa panghinaharap na pang-publikong pagpupulong o pangyayari, maaari lamang tawagan kami sa telepono 206-684-8307

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Waaxda Gaadiidka Seattle waxay qiimeysaa ra'yigaada waxayna rabtaa in ay hubsato in aad adiga ka war haaysid shaqada aan anaga haayno. Haddii aad dooneysid in dokumentigaan lagu tarjumo, ama haddii aad dooneysid in aad codsatid adeegyada tarjamada goor dambe ee la qaban doono shirarka dadweynaha ama manasabad, fadlan nagala soo xariir telefoonka 206-684-8307

**የሲያትል መንገድና መጓጓዣ መምሪያ (Seattle Department of Transportation) ለስተዋዕት ምክር ቤቱ ይፈልጋል። የምንሠራውንም ሥራ ለናሳውቅዎት ይገኛለን። ይህ ሰነድ ይንዲተረጎምልዎት ከፈለጉ ወይም ወደፊት የሕዝብ ስብሰባ ወይም ዝግጅት ላይ ለስተዋዕት ይንዲተርብልዎት ከፈለጉ ይገኛሉ። ይገናኙን 206-684-8307።**

Birkiin Geejjiba Seattle yaada keef gatii kenna ammas waan nuti dalagaa jirru akka beektu mirkaneessuu fedha. Galmeen kun akka hiikamu yoo barbaadde, ykn walga'ii uummataa kan egeree ykn qophii irratti tajaajiloota kan hiikaa afaanii gaafachuu yoo feete, mee nu quunnamii as Irati 206-684-8307

Any questions, please contact:  
Krista Bunch  
Bridging the Gap Community Outreach Advisor  
206.684.3967  
krista.bunch@seattle.gov

For more information, visit our website at:  
<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/BridgingtheGap.htm>