

TRANSPORTATION LEVY TO MOVE SEATTLE



DRAFT PROPOSAL – MARCH 2015

Our transportation system is critical to our quality of life and economic vitality. Seattle's streets, sidewalks, and bridges move hundreds of thousands of people every day. On top of that, they support freight access, ensuring that goods can get in and around the city so store shelves are stocked and packages make it to your front door. Most importantly, you depend on the system every day, whether you choose to take transit, drive a car, ride a bike, or walk.

For the last eight years, the Bridging the Gap transportation levy has helped address our maintenance backlog, secure transit service, and improve road safety. The current levy expires at the end of 2015. Our aging infrastructure, rapidly growing population, and evolving travel needs require additional investments to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient travel for everyone.

To accomplish this, Mayor Ed Murray introduced Move Seattle — his ten-year transportation vision that integrates our long-term plans for walking, biking, transit, and freight and sets forth a holistic approach for meeting Seattle's needs today and tomorrow. A key element to making this vision a reality is a new transportation levy to replace the expiring one. The Transportation Levy to Move Seattle is a draft proposal that aims to take care of the basics, maintaining our streets, bridges, and sidewalks, while also investing in the future with improvements that give us more travel choices to move more people in and around Seattle.

We'd like to get your input and reaction to this draft proposal before Mayor Murray sends it to the Seattle City Council in May. The City will need to submit a final levy proposal to King County by early August for it to be on the ballot in November 2015.

Be a part of the discussion and help shape the transportation levy proposal. See the back page for details.



Seattle is one of the fastest growing cities in the country. The Transportation Levy to Move Seattle will invest in the basic safety and maintenance of our transportation system. It will also give us a critically important opportunity to reshape the way our growing population gets around, today and tomorrow.

—Mayor Edward Murray

Transportation Levy to Move Seattle Draft Proposal

TAKING CARE OF THE BASICS

With safety as our highest priority, the levy will fund seismic improvements and ongoing repairs and maintenance of our transportation infrastructure. Keeping on top of day-to-day maintenance needs today will save us money tomorrow.

A SAFE CITY

Keep Seattle travelers safe by working to eliminate serious and fatal crashes and seismically reinforcing vulnerable bridges

\$350 million over 9 years to:

Implement a program to eliminate serious and fatal crashes on Seattle streets

- Complete 12-15 corridor safety projects, improving safety for all travelers on all of our high-crash streets
- Complete 9-12 Safe Routes to School projects each year along with safety education, improving walking and biking safety at every public school in Seattle
- Increase crosswalk repainting frequency to a four-year or better cycle to ensure every crosswalk is clearly marked

Protect our most vulnerable travelers – people walking and biking

- Build approximately 50 miles of new protected bike lanes and 60 miles of greenways, completing over half of the Bicycle Master Plan citywide network
- Repair up to 225 blocks of damaged sidewalks in our urban centers and villages
- Make curb ramp and crossing improvements at up to 750 intersections citywide
- Complete the Burke-Gilman Trail Missing Link in Ballard

Keep our bridges safe

- Eliminate the backlog of needed bridge spot repairs
- Seismically reinforce 16 vulnerable bridges
- Replace Seattle's last timber vehicle bridge (on Fairview Avenue), which connects the city's two largest job centers
- Plan and design high priority bridge replacements to begin construction after 2024



AN AFFORDABLE CITY

Invest in maintenance today to avoid increased expense for Seattle residents later and provide alternatives to car ownership, including more affordable travel options

\$275 million over 9 years

Maintain and modernize 250 lane-miles of our busiest streets

- Repave up to 180 lane-miles of arterial streets, maintaining and modernizing 35% of Seattle's busiest streets carrying the most people and goods
- Repave 65 targeted locations every year, totaling an average of 7-8 arterial lane-miles per year, with a repair and maintenance program run by City crews

Provide tools to help people get around without the expense of owning a car

- Work with businesses to improve employee access to transit passes, bike share and car share memberships
- Work with residents, landlords, and developers of new buildings to ensure access to transit, car share, bike share, and other travel options

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

As Seattle grows, our transportation system must grow and evolve, too. The proposed levy prioritizes the development of an interconnected system providing easy-to-use, reliable, and affordable travel options for everyone.

AN INTERCONNECTED CITY

Provide an easy-to-use, reliable transportation system that gives travelers the options they want when they want them

\$170 million over 9 years

Modernize outdated streets to give people convenient and affordable travel options

- Complete 7-10 multimodal corridor projects, redesigning major streets to improve connectivity and safety for all travelers, whether walking, biking, driving, or taking transit
- Make bus service more reliable through a comprehensive transit improvement program to eliminate bottlenecks in key locations
- Optimize traffic signal timing on 5 corridors throughout the city each year to improve traffic flow and serve people in cars and trucks, on bicycles, transit, and foot
- Create 7 new high-quality bus rapid transit corridors

Improve connections to light rail

- Provide funding for a new Link light rail station at Graham Street in southeast Seattle
- Fund a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over I-5 connecting to light rail in Northgate
- Build targeted pedestrian and bicycle connections to light rail stations

Make it easier to walk and bike in Seattle

- Build 100 new blocks of sidewalks, filling in 50% of the sidewalk gaps on priority transit corridors citywide
- Make residential streets without sidewalks safer and more comfortable for walking
- Install 1,500 new bicycle parking spots citywide

A VIBRANT CITY

Invest in streets and sidewalks that hum with economic and social activity

\$105 million over 9 years

Improve mobility for freight and delivery vehicles

- Provide local money to design and build the Lander Street Overpass
- Build the East Marginal Way corridor, a key route in Seattle's Heavy Haul Network
- Fund a targeted spot improvement program to help freight movement

Invest in neighborhood priority projects

- Complete 20-35 neighborhood priority projects to improve safety, mobility and access and quality of life in those neighborhoods

Take care of our urban forest and improve drainage in flood-prone communities

- Replace every tree removed due to disease or safety with two new trees
- Add a new tree crew focused on quick response to critical pruning needs (such as clearances for people biking and walking, and at transit stops) and on ensuring clear sightlines to traffic signals and signs
- Partner with Seattle Public Utilities to pave streets, provide new pedestrian infrastructure and crossings, and address drainage issues in flood-prone South Park and Broadview neighborhoods



PROPOSED LEVY FUNDING AND COSTS

At the end of 2015, the current 9-year, \$365 million transportation levy (called Bridging the Gap) will expire. The proposed Transportation Levy to Move Seattle would replace Bridging the Gap and continue efforts to maintain a safe and efficient transportation system, while also doing more to invest in the future transportation needs of our city. The proposed levy would last nine years and generate \$95 million per year, for a total of about \$900 million.

It would be paid for through a property tax that would cost the median Seattle household (\$450,000) about \$275 per year. In comparison, the expiring Bridging the Gap levy costs about \$130 per year for the median Seattle household.

In addition to the \$900 million generated over the life of the levy, the City of Seattle estimates these funds can be used to leverage nearly \$2 billion in additional transportation investments.



BE A PART OF SHAPING OUR TRANSPORTATION FUTURE

We need your participation and feedback on the Transportation Levy to Move Seattle. Together, we can make sure that our transportation system is more effective, reliable, and accessible for everyone.

Visit www.seattle.gov/LevytoMoveSeattle to:

- Take the Transportation Levy Proposal Priorities Survey
- Sign up for email updates
- Get more details about the levy proposal
- Check out our full public outreach calendar

Attend an upcoming community conversation to talk directly with staff about the proposal and your transportation priorities:

Saturday, March 28 (Southeast Seattle)
New Holly Gathering Hall
(7054 32nd Ave S, Seattle 98118)
10 AM - 12 PM

Monday, March 30 (North Seattle)
Roosevelt High School
1410 NE 66th St, Seattle 98115
6 - 8 PM

Tuesday, March 31 (West Seattle)
West Seattle High School
3000 California Ave SW, Seattle 98116
6 - 8 PM

Learn more at www.seattle.gov/LevytoMoveSeattle

QUESTIONS? Contact Allison Schwartz at allison.schwartz@seattle.gov or (206) 386-4654