

**JULY 2025**

**Seattle Transportation Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) Meeting**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, July 22, 5-7pm

**Location:** In-person at Seattle City Hall – Room 370

**Members Present:**

- Lisa Bogardus
- Jack Brand
- Lynda Firey-Oldroyd
- Alex Hudson
- Harrison Jerome
- Chase Kitchen
- Steven Pumphrey
- Kaid Ni Ray-Tipton
- Nafiso Samatar
- Jack Whisner
- Geri Poor
- Zach Burton
- Lucy Sloman
- Wes Mills
- Ian Griswold, City Councilmember Rob Saka's Office
- City Budget Office Director delegate Saroja Reddy

**Members Absent:** Donna McBain Evans, Tyler Vasquez

**Guests:**

- **SDOT:** Serena Lehman, Meghan Shepard, Kalen Carney, Bill LaBorde, Katie Olsen, Alex King, William Khadivi
- **Members of the public:** 2

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:10PM**

**Welcome & Public Comment**

- Katie O.: Welcome, and thank you for being here.

**Review of Last Meeting**

- Serena L.: Presented highlights from levy delivery to-date, from the previous meeting.
- Linda F.-O.: Do we know how much of a hit we took financially with the federal funding landscape? Are there any grants that won't come in?
  - Serena: It's all speculative at this point. SDOT partners are affected too by federal funding.
- Alex H.: How will we interact with the Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF)?

- Serena L.: The TFTF was set up by resolution, and the Mayor's office determines who is on it. The TFTF is funded by Levy dollars, which the LOC oversees.
- Saroja R.: One thing the previous LOC grappled with as they wrote their final recommendation letter is how to fund the larger needs we have as a city. This could include how much cash to use, looking at bonds, or lids. Looking at financing is an important aspect that the TFTF is focusing on.
- Steve P.: Are members all city employees?
  - Serena L.: They will be members of the public.
- Alex H.: What are the conditions under which the City Council will lift proviso?
  - Serena L.: The proviso was lifted earlier this year; we will not see that impact spending in current year. We will work closely with them.
- Katie: No public comment recorded. Any outstanding questions?
- Lynda F.-O.: Are we there to amplify needs or push for more resources?
  - Katie O.: In next meeting, we will be diving into project delivery.
- Steve P.: Will that cover how SDOT develops cost estimates and ongoing maintenance?
  - Katie O.: Yes, we will cover this in the future.

### **Public Comment and New Member Introductions**

- Katie O.: This is a time for any members of the public to give public comment if they wish. Passed to Lucy and Wes to introduce themselves.
- Lucy S. and Wes M. introduced themselves & their motivation for serving on the LOC.

### **Returning LOC Member Panel Discussion**

- Geri P. provided lessons learned from her experience to the LOC. This included: take advantage of site visits, do the readings in advance of the meetings as best as you can, think about the whole city and whole system, pay attention to what you can learn from others, and get involved with leadership of the LOC.
- Zack B.: How many site visits did you do?
  - Geri P.: We visited several Neighborhood Street Fund project candidates and the RapidRide G Line project, to name a few.
- Nafiso S.: Did you meet with the Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF)?
  - Katie O.: The TFTF is new this year.
- Jack W.: Can you speak about the Freight and Transit Lanes?
  - Geri P.: We hope they work as they are intended.
- Lisa Bogardus provided lessons learned from her experience to the LOC. This included: when in doubt, read all materials; each year, go back and read the enabling legislation, attend meetings in person if you can, and use the dashboards and online tools. Lisa spoke to the reset in 2018 in the last levy and working with SDOT on various issues such as the bridge seismic program.
- Linda F.-O.: How did you work with SDOT to find a solution to the bridge seismic issue?
  - Lisa B.: Not all original projects could be funded. New mechanisms for funding were needed for major projects.
- Serena L.: A bit more background on the reset: we faced challenges with less federal funding than originally anticipated and lack of clear goals for some programs. The LOC supported us in identifying where to direct limited funding when we had to make challenging decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Katie O.: Some of what you are hearing are repeated themes and lessons learned. This time, we assumed much less leveraged funding than the previous levy, and we

are identifying performance targets for programs with non-numerical goals now, versus several years into the levy.

- Jack W.: Did you notice changes in your work when the Mayor and SDOT Directors changed during the last levy?
  - Geri P.: Can't speak to any changes noticed.

### How SDOT is Organized & What We Do

- Megan S. presented how SDOT is organized and what SDOT does, including SDOT's vision, how the department is funded, the different divisions and functions, and more.
- Harrison J.: Who pays into commercial parking tax?
  - Meghan S.: Owner and operator of the parking lot collects tax on top of sales tax.
- Alex H.: Why is the previous levy continuing to provide funding?
  - Meghan S.: Some projects are continuing to be built and some tax payments may be late, meaning that a small amount of levy funding will be collected past this year.
- Alex H.: What is a lane mile?
  - Serena L.: This relates to our paving programs; a two lane road for one mile counts as two lane miles.
- Jack: Do lane miles count travel lanes that were switched to parking?
  - Serena L.: If we reduce the number of travel lanes, it will reduce lane miles.
- Nafiso S.: How do you make decisions for where to put new crosswalks?
  - Meghan S.: We will cover that shortly!
- Lucy S.: Does 1,100 SDOT staff include maintenance and operations?
  - Meghan S.: Yes, it does.
- Serena L. Began presenting about how a levy project comes to life.
- Alex K.: Introduced self as Levy Equity Coordinator and presented how we incorporate equity in the levy.
- Jack W.: Recognize that where people are living changes over time.
  - Alex K. : Yes, the Office of Planning and Community Development updates the RSJI map regularly to identify where change is happening.
- Kaid N. R.-T.: Is the racial and social equity map being reproduced next year?
  - Alex K.: Yes, it is updated every two years.
- Nafiso S.: Revisiting question from earlier; how can communities get in touch with SDOT to provide feedback? You are doing a good job, but we need to reduce barriers and do more to reach people.
  - Megan S.: We have several ways to reach people and hear feedback, but we can always improve.
- Lynda F.-O.: I work a lot with Venu Nemani; where does he sit in the org chart?
  - Megan S.: Venu is Chief Safety Officer and acting director of the Transportation Operations Division.
- Steve P.: We need an org chart.
  - Katie O.: We will send it to you.
- Alex H.: The deliverables are well organized and methodical, but the missing piece for me is how those help us reach larger goals and impacts like percentage of people within a certain distance of frequent transit. I would like to learn about how we are reaching these outcomes with levy deliverables.
  - Serena L.: As part of our STP implementation, we are required to report on those performance measures. Levy delivery is a key piece of implementing the STP.
- Kaid N. R.-T.: Is the district project fund composed of levy funding?

- Ian G.: Not entirely; this is still being worked out; some of it comes from levy dollars, other local funding.

**Questions, Wrap Up, and Look-Ahead to Next Meetings/Closing**

- Katie O.: Provided an overview of upcoming meetings.
- Harrison J.: How can the LOC branch out to other transportation funding mechanisms?
  - Katie O.: That is the role of the TFTF, and in the past the LOC made recommendations on other funding sources as part of their final recommendation at the end of the levy, per legislation.

**Adjourn:** 6:57 PM

**Action items**

Action items below capture tasks from previous meetings and status.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Status</b>
Provide dictionary of common SDOT acronyms to LOC.	SDOT	Complete
Who owns the other 600,000 trees in ROW?	SDOT	600,000 other trees in the right-of-way would be owned by adjacent property owners and would be considered privately maintained trees. city maintains trees that we have planted, and trees planted by property owners or naturally occurring trees are the maintenance responsibility of the adjacent property owner.
Can you send us the SDOT Org Chart?	SDOT	Complete