

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 1, 2020 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Co-chairs: Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Ron Posthuma

Location: Video Conference

Members present on the phone: Ron Posthuma, Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Joseph Laubach, Samuel Ferrara, Patrick Taylor, Kevin Werner, David Seater, Vicky Clarke, Hester Serebrin, Lisa Bogardus, Alex Rouse

Members Absent: Inga Manskopf, Todd Biesold, Ben Noble, Nick Paranjpye, Councilmember Alex Pederson

Guests: Sam Zimbabwe, Rachel McCaffrey, Lorelei Williams, Brian Sperry, Meghan Shepard, - Matt Gemberling, Annya Pintak (all SDOT), Toby Thaler (aid to CM Alex Pedersen), Elliot Helmbrecht (Mayor's Office), Riz Rizwi (Transportation Equity Work Group), Linda Stroud (citizen), Jennifer Lehman (Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board)

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 PM

Agenda item #1: Welcome and roll call

Rachel B: Conducted a roll call for committee members. City staff introduced themselves, and Rachel M introduced guests by stating their names.

Agenda item #2: Levy delivery that continues, despite COVID-19 revenue impacts

Lorelei W: We want to highlight that [there are many levy projects that are continuing](#) in light of the pandemic and the need to pause some projects. We've also shared information about the revenue reductions and the need to shift resources due to the pandemic. due to the pandemic.

Vicky C: Are any of these projects at risk of being cancelled?

Lorelei W: We have been successful not stopping projects that are in construction. As we go into 2021/2022 these projects are part of the larger portfolio assessment and are subject to budget impacts.

Patrick T: I heard rumors that J Line could be delayed.

Lorelei W: That is a project that SDOT is still committed on. That said, there are some potential funding issues related to the Metro partnership. I want to clarify that what is happening is a result of the pandemic. We feel strongly that the LOC is a partner with SDOT in understanding the details and helping SDOT tell the story.

David S: I heard rumors that the Union St protected bike lane project will receive some bad news at tomorrow night's pedestrian board meeting and I'm wondering why the LOC hasn't heard this?

Lorelei W: There is so much going on right now and we are working hard to share news with the LOC as quickly as we can. The project is expected to continue but with some delay.

Sam Z: The impact of on the Union St project is more technical and not budget related.

Ron P: Are there any other projects being paused due to revenue problems?

Alex R: It was disappointing to see SDOT put a barrier outside the East Precinct Police Dept building.

Sam Z: We talked about that last month. The work we are doing there is in support of SPD and is not affecting SDOT's levy delivery.

Agenda item #3: West Seattle Bridge update

Meaghan S: Presented an [update on the West Seattle Bridge](#). The bridge closed on March 23rd. Since then it's been a sprint to ensure safety. The bridge carried 84,000 vehicles per day before the bridge closure. SDOT worked with local businesses and residents to develop an emergency evacuation plan. We have installed 75 monitoring stations and our contractor is working now to fill cracks with epoxy and installing additional post-tensioning in the concrete girders. We have created a technical advisory group. And we have a Community Task Force helping us as well. We have selected a design consultant to help with bridge repair and replacement designs. Managing access to the low bridge has been critical. We have expanded access from transit and emergency vehicles only to all vehicles at night. We have a process under way called Reconnect West Seattle where we have asked community members to recommend projects to SDOT. We intend to determine this Fall whether we can repair the bridge or we need to replace it.

Riz R: Does the original builder have some liability?

Sam Z: We are looking into that. It's not likely.

Vicky C: Is money being siphoned off from the SDOT budget?

Sam Z: Council is looking into an interfund loan to advance money (from Real Estate Excise Tax). That impact wouldn't be felt for a couple of years.

Vicky C: How is the mitigation being funded?

Meaghan S: It will be funded through the interfund loan that Sam described.

Alex R: Will the Community Task Force be involved in the cost benefit analysis ?

Meghan S: Yes, they have been involved in the factors and weighting used in the analysis.

Agenda item #4: SDOT / Levy budget - LOC priorities discussion

Ron P: In October we will be responding to the Mayor's budget. In June we responded to SDOT's prioritization approach. Is there anything we want to discuss now in preparation for October?

Joe L: At the last meeting, I raised some concerns about reduced deliverables related to reduced revenues from COVID. Lorelei contacted me and explained to me how local dollars are part of the levy funding plan. The challenges now are that the non-levy taxes are reduced and will be competing with other city needs. Where does this leave us? SDOT and the LOC are committed to the success of the levy. In the next couple years, we should start talking about the next levy. I think we should only set deliverables based on levy dollars and not including general funds in future levy deliverables.

Ron P: We have our June 10th letter. Do we have any modifications or things we want to say now or are we good with waiting until October?

Sam F: I think we should wait until we have more detail on the Mayor's budget so we can provide a complete response in October.

Vicky C: I think we should be proactive.

Ron P: If we want to influence the Mayor's budget, now is the time. Or it might even be too late.

Kevin W: My recollection is that Sam said if we wanted to influence the budget, it needed to be earlier in the year, and I suggest we should focus on reacting to the Mayor's October budget.

Lorelei W: It's getting late in the process. Once the Mayor transmits the budget to council in October, it goes to council and the LOC feedback would be part of the council review process.

Elliot H: I just want you to know that your voices are heard and we take back what we hear from you as we discuss the budget internally.

Ron P: I am concerned that deep cuts are in transportation. And I am concerned about disproportional cuts to the general funding for transportation work. If the West Seattle Bridge funding is additive that's an issue if it impacts the levy program.

Alex R: I understand and there are other areas like public health that are in crisis now due to the pandemic.

Patrick T: I think there's a lot of considerations that goes into this budget in light of the pandemic.

Sam F: We wrote a letter last year and the adopted budget did incorporate some of the LOC's input.

Rachel B: Sam, do you think we should wait?

Sam F: Yes, I think it will be more effective to wait until October.

Alex R: Waiting would allow us to collaborate with the modal boards.

Ron P: I'm hearing that we should wait until October. We'll have a better sense of the trade-offs with other COVID related needs.

Vicky C: Elliot, what's the granularity of the Mayor's budget?

Sam Z: The budget will include both projects and programs. The Levy assessment process will give us another look as well.

Agenda item #5: Ongoing engagement with Transportation Equity Group (TEW)

Rachel M: Inga had asked about ongoing engagement between the TEW and the LOC. The TEW is interested in attending these LOC meetings.

Annya P: I'm the Transportation Equity Manager at SDOT, staff liaison with the TEW. Annya shared an update on the engagement between SDOT staff and the TEW. This is a pivotal time with the budget discussions and a future levy on the horizon. Riz is one of our two co-chairs. He will be attending future LOC meetings.

Riz R: The TEW is working to come up with some practical solutions to address emerging challenges. We have discussed in the TEW how these issues affect equity. The more information we have the better to inform these discussions. So, it's very helpful to be able to attend these LOC meetings.

Agenda item #6: Modal Board updates

Patrick T (Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board)): We have been working on a variety of issues including the Stay Healthy Streets and Land Use Omnibus Bill. We are excited to see the Beacon Hill and Martin Luther King Way bikeway improvements progress. We wrote a letter in support of Stay Healthy Streets. We wrote a letter supporting the Black Live Matter movement. It's disappointing to see the eco blocks in Capital Hill around the East Precinct building.

David S (Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board): We have had a couple of workshops on racial justice and board operations. I want to highlight some frustrations I have with current street conditions in my neighborhood. At East Madison and Denny, many people ignore the push button and cross when the walk light is on. This is an issue that was raised with SDOT years ago and hasn't been addressed. At the 12th Ave E and Denny project (Your Voice Your Choice), many of the posts are down (hit by cars) and the photo shows a car ignoring the no left turn sign and turning left. Also, it's frustrating to see SDOT use resources to build the concrete eco blocks at the East Precinct Police when these resources could have been used to do higher quality work at other locations I noted. I can't reconcile the differences in SDOT's values on the SDOT website and issues like the East Precinct work done by SDOT.

Elliot H: Thank you for highlighting these issues. I will bring it back and I want to emphasize the good work that SDOT is doing not be forgotten.

Alex R (Transit Advisory Board): The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released a draft report that SDOT is ready to move ahead with the Madison BRT project. The Madison project has \$60M in FTA funding, which is about half of the budget. The planning for Route 40 will finish in 2020. We wrote a letter in support the Transportation Benefit District funding legislation. We wrote a letter to encourage Sound Transit to transfer property ownership to Africa Town to support disadvantaged community initiatives. We wrote a letter in support of virtual meetings to provide more access to the communities we serve. We have an opening on the board and we may be getting someone new on the board. Also, I may be stepping back from the LOC. It's really hard to see SDOT spending resources to protect the East Precinct building instead of providing more transit facilities to those in need, especially front line workers in the pandemic.

Hester S: About \$35M of Madison funding is supposed to come from Sound Transit and there could be a timing issue. David mentioned the racial justice training that the Pedestrian Board did which would be good.

Lorelei W: In our final steps with the FTA small starts grant agreement award we have to update our budget and timeline in September. The agreement that SDOT staff is working on would go to Sound Transit in September or October.

Ron P: Is it planned for this year?

Lorelei W: That's possible but I don't know.

Rachel B: Is there interest in drafting a letter to the Mayor about the Sound Transit funding for Madison BRT?

Ron P: If someone could get us the Mayor's letter we could be informed.

Rachel B: Rachel or Kiera can you get us the letter? Ron, can you draft a letter?

Rachel M: Yes, I'll get you a copy of the letter.

Joe L: On the RapidRide projects, some projects have a lot of grants and other fund sources. Do you know why?

Alex R: A lot has to do with the federal government priorities.

Lorelei W: It's also how we are aligned with Metro on RapidRide. And we have received grants on Route 40 and 48 from other agencies.

Todd B (Seattle Freight Advisory Board): Not present.

Rachel B: Let's defer the Freight Advisory Board update until the next meeting.

Agenda item #7: Committee business

Rachel B: I didn't see the August 11, 2020 meeting minutes.

Ron P: I read them.

Patrick T: I saw them.

Rachel B: Any comments, corrections? Is there a motion to approve?

Patrick T: Motioned to approve.

David S: Seconded the motion.

Rachel B: The minutes are approved. Also, having an executive committee will help ensure continuity when co-chairs leave the committee.

Ron P: The City is doing this with other committees.

Rachel M: It's a model that other boards are using and provides added support for the co-chairs. It would be two co-chairs, a secretary, and an at-large member.

Patrick T: Would the executive committee have additional responsibilities?

Alex R: I think the answer is no.

David S: Are modal board members excluded?

Rachel M: No, as far as I know, modal board members are eligible.

Ron P: I think it's an issue of workload.

Rachel B: Inga is interested in the at-large position.

Alex R: I like the idea of having an executive committee.

Rachel B: Others interested in these positions?

Sam F: I am interested.

Kevin: One pitfall to be aware of is what the executive committee does vs. the full committee.

Rachel M: Operating procedures is something discussed at the retreat. That's a lot of work for the co-chairs. I do have draft language modeled after the Sweetened Tax advisory committee. I drafted some language on how an executive committee would operate for your review.

Rachel B: Discussion of this language? Is there a motion to approve?

Joe L: Is the vice chair responsibilities defined here?

Patrick T: I think it just means you're on the executive committee.

Patrick T: I motion to approve.

Alex R: I second the motion.

Rachel B: Ok, the executive committee and Rachel's draft language is approved.

Rachel M: The vote tonight is for the vice chair.

Ron P: Let's put that off to the next meeting.

David S: It might make sense to vote for all positions at the same time.

Rachel B: Let's do the elections next meeting. Let me, Rachel M, and Ron know if you're interested in these positions.

Rachel M: Looking ahead, we do a budget update in October. I suggest having the retreat in November and then the prioritization update in December.

David S: What do you have in mind for the retreat?

Ron P: It's the internal issues on how the LOC is working and working with SDOT. We haven't thought a lot about it yet.

Rachel B: After last year's retreat, there was more interaction between people on the committee.

Ron P: Maybe the racial equity training David S mentioned could be part of the retreat.

Vicky C: I like the idea of the racial equity training.

Rachel M: So, we will have the retreat and a separate racial equity training.

Public Comment:

Rachel B: Anyone want to give public comment?

Rachel M: Press star 6 to unmute if you have a comment.

No comments.

David S: I plan to be stepping down from the committee soon.

Adjourn: 6:56 PM

Action items

Action items below capture tasks from previous meetings. Completed items will remain on action item tracker for one additional set of meeting minutes to capture “complete” status and will then be removed.

Action item	Meeting	Lead	Status	Deadline
Provide Mayor Durkan’s letter to Sound Transit re. Madison BRT	September 1	SDOT	Completed – emailed 9/3/2020	Sept 10
Status of school zone cameras	August 11, 2020	SDOT	completed	
Demographic data used in identifying equity populations	August 11, 2020	SDOT	completed	