



# Transit Passenger Safety Seattle Department of Transportation

# SDOT Support for Transit Passenger Safety

## *Increasing Investments*

**Transit Ambassadors (2024-2025)**

- 2024: started investing in additional Transit Ambassadors for care and presence [STM Proviso]



**Transit Security (2025)**

- 2025: will invest in Transit Security at hot spots [Levy Proviso]

## **SDOT's Baseline Transit Passenger Safety Investments**

**Seattle Transit Measure (STM)**

- SDOT Transit Service purchases (additional trips and hours paid for by STM) support Metro SaFe initiatives and systemic safety efforts
- Streetcar Safety & Security efforts



**Physical Improvements**

- Ongoing: Create safer crossings, waiting areas and streets near transit stops [Prior levy and 2024 Transportation Levy]



# Seattle Transit Measure-Funded Transit Safety

SDOT *purchases transit service* from Metro; funds Metro transit safety & security program costs for added service

- 2023: STM contributed \$1.3 million
- 2025: SDOT's contribution is estimated ~ \$3.5 million

SDOT *invests in Transit Ambassadors*, a complement to Metro Transit Security Officers (TSOs)

- Provide customer service on buses or near stops, wayfinding, fare questions, and general information
- In 2024, added transit ambassadors at:
  - Central District: 5th & Jackson to 23rd & Cherry
  - Rainier Ave Corridor: Mt Baker Transit Center to Columbia City
  - Seattle Center: 3rd & Bell to 5th Ave N & Mercer
- This year, working with Metro to execute agreement to solidify up to 3 new locations based on need and impact



# Transit Passenger Safety (Transportation Levy-Funded)

- Transportation Levy includes \$9M towards Transit Passenger Safety
- Executing agreement with Metro now to invest \$1M this year per Council Proviso
- Investments will support transit security personnel at hot spots and known problem areas
- Includes data-driven efforts to expand the hours of Transit Security Officers (TSOs), locations in Seattle



Metro Transit Security officers (King County Metro website)



# Streetcar Safety and Security

SDOT Funded investments include:

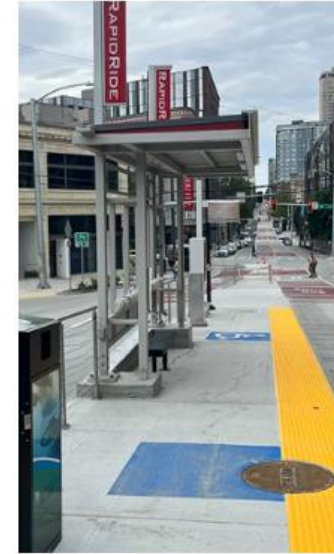
- TSO patrols for streetcars up to 8 hours per day to enforce the Code of Conduct and deter unsafe behaviors
- Streetcar Supervisors provide additional level of staffing on vehicles
- Adding lighting at 8 shelter locations this year
- On board video cameras record incidents for safety investigations



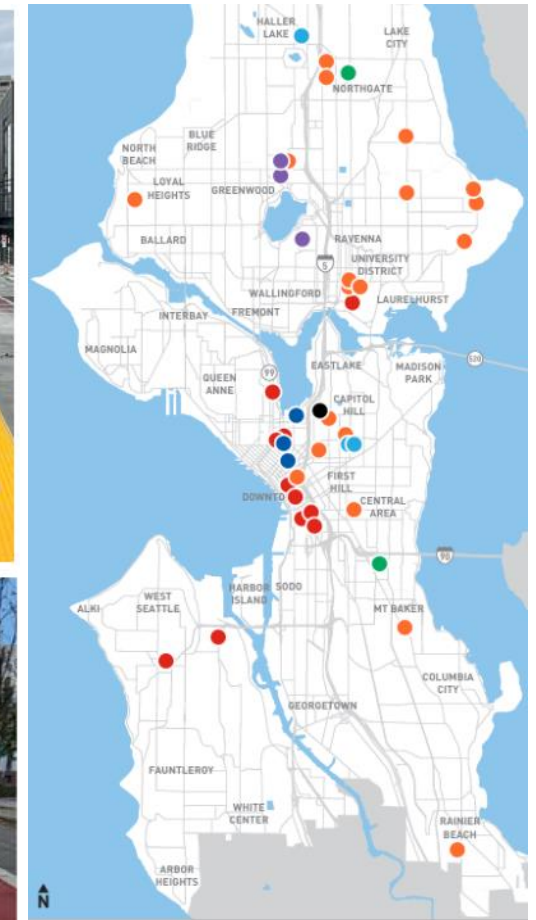
# Physical Improvements

Passenger Safety Investments focus on:

- Making passengers and stops more visible
- Fostering a sense of safety for waiting passengers
- Creating safer crossings and streets near transit stops
- 2024 Transportation Levy will invest \$27M in Transit Spot Improvements
- Project types include:
  - Pedestrian lighting
  - Bus zone expansion and bus benches
  - Crosswalks, crossing signals, and accessible curb ramps



## 2024 Transit Spot Improvements



- Red Bus Lanes
- Bus Zone Improvements (rear door, bus benches, and bus shelter pads)
- Asphalt and Concrete Overlays
- Signal Upgrades
- Curb Space and Lane Markings
- Streetcar Safety Improvements
- Safety and Maintenance

# Other City Safety Initiatives

## Downtown Activation Team Pilot

*To restore and sustain a vibrant Seattle, we will address the challenge of clean, safe, and revitalized neighborhood and downtown with a compassionate, coordinated, and place-based approach.*

| PUBLIC SAFETY<br>RESPONSE   | VIBRANT<br>NEIGHBORHOODS  | ECONOMIC<br>RECOVERY   | COMMUNITY<br>WELL-BEING   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Reduced violent crime, high-impact crime, crisis, and street disorder</b></p> | <p><b>Healthy, vibrant, inclusive and activated public spaces</b></p> | <p><b>Strong and sustainable economic activity and business engagement</b></p> | <p><b>Holistic, supportive, and coordinated services that address root causes</b></p> |
| <p>Goal: Reduced Crime and Improved Perceptions of Safety</p>                       | <p>Goal: Increase in Foot Traffic and Positive Activity</p>           | <p>Goal: Reduced Vacancy and Turnover</p>                                      | <p>Goal: Coordinated response matching services to the demand (root causes)</p>       |



# Questions and Discussion Thank you

