

2023 Seattle City Council Budget Action

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
SDOT	502	C	001-2023

Budget Action Title: Amend and pass as amended CB 120443 - Seattle Transit Measure Material Scope Change; reduce \$3.5 million Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD) Fund (2023) and \$3.5 million STBD Fund (2024) in SDOT's Mobility Operations Budget Summary Level; add \$9 million STBD Fund (2023) and \$9 million STBD Fund (2024) for SDOT's STBD - Transit Improvements (MC-TR-C108) CIP project; and add a proviso

Ongoing: Yes Has Budget Proviso: Yes

Has CIP Amendment: Yes Has Attachment: Yes

Primary Sponsor: Alex Pedersen

Council Members:

Staff Analyst: Calvin Chow

Council Bill or Resolution: CB 120443

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	SN
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Budget Action Description:

This Council Budget Action would amend and recommend passage of Council Bill (CB) 120443 to increase the annual spending limit of Seattle Transit Measure revenues on transit capital improvements from the Mayor's \$6 million proposal to \$15 million annually. As proposed by the Mayor, CB 120443 would raise the spending limit on transit capital improvements from \$3 million to \$6 million annually. The proposed amendment to CB 120443 is shown in Attachment A.

This Council Budget Action would reduce proposed funding by \$3.5 million in 2023 and \$3.5 million in 2024 of Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD) Fund in the Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT's) Mobility Operations Budget Summary Level (BSL). This ongoing reduction reflects the reduced need to fund transportation access and subsidized Youth ORCA passes; in September 2022, King County Metro and Sound Transit implemented free youth fares.

This Council Budget Action would add \$9 million in 2023, \$9 million in 2024, \$3.5 million in 2025, and \$3.5 million in 2026 of STBD Fund to SDOT's STBD - Transit Improvements (MC-TR-C108) CIP project, which funds safety, speed, and reliability improvements for public mass transit. This funding includes the ongoing annual \$3.5 million reduction in the Mobility Operations BSL and the use of \$11 million of STBD Fund reserves over the biennium. The impact of this Council Budget Action on the STBD - Transit Improvements CIP project is shown in Attachment B.

The Seattle Transit Measure financial plan (STBD - Sales Tax only) in the proposed budget identifies \$11.8 million of unreserved fund balance and \$20 million of reserves at the end of 2024. With this Council

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Budget Action, the unreserved fund balance at the end of 2024 would be reduced to \$800,000. SDOT maintains a reserve to pay for a gradual ramp down in King County Metro service in the event that the Seattle Transit Measure is not renewed when it expires in April 2027. SDOT may have to adjust future Seattle Transit Measure spending if reserves are insufficient to support potential future costs.

This Council Budget Action would impose a proviso on \$12 million STBD Fund in the STBD - Transit Improvements CIP project for bridge-related transit improvements. This Council Budget Action anticipates a similar proviso on \$12 million STBD Fund in the STBD - Transit Improvements CIP project for bridge-related transit improvements in the 2024 Budget.

This Council Budget Action would impose the following proviso:

"Of the appropriations in the Seattle Department of Transportation's 2023 budget for the Seattle Transportation Benefit District - Transit Improvements (MC-TR-C108) CIP project, \$12,000,000 is appropriated solely for bridge-related or structures-related transit improvements, and may be spent for no other purpose."