

# Solid Waste Container Storage and Access Improvements

July 23, 2025

**Parks, Public Utilities and Technology Committee**  
**Seattle City Council**

**Angela Wallis, Development Review Supervisor**  
Seattle Public Utilities  
Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Division



# Purpose of Legislation

- Meet city and customer solid waste storage and access needs for changing development patterns by ensuring minimum storage space for containers and access for collection vehicles to service.
- Provide clarity for developers
- Codify industry standards



# What is SMC 23.54.040?

## Land Use Code

- Establishes **minimum solid waste storage and access requirements for new or expanded buildings**
- Governed by SDCI
- SPU provides **subject-matter review** and co-approval of solid waste storage & access



# Developer Input & Response

- Interviewed 7 Seattle-based large and medium developers
- Briefed Mayor's Housing Subcabinet, Master Builders
  - Also offered briefings to AIA, HDC, ULI Northwest, NAIOP
- SEPA Notice (March '25) – no comments received
- Shared proposal with and requested comment from ~25 members of the development community
  - General support/neutral comments/no response



# Support Housing Density

## Cart storage solutions for middle housing

- Proper storage space on private property
- Storage space in all zones
- Flexible storage and service options
- Prevent ROW conflicts
  - Protect space for trees, bike parking, pedestrians



# Clarify Code

## Streamline Design by Providing Definitions

- *staging area*
- *collection location*
- *storage area*
- *solid waste container types*

## Safety: Codify slope maximums and dimensions

- truck access
- pedestrian & truck driver safety
- dumpster service



# Questions

