

**SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\***

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*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

**1. BILL SUMMARY**

**a. Legislation Title:**

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Department of Transportation; authorizing the Director of the Department of Transportation to acquire, accept, and record on behalf of The City of Seattle a statutory warranty deed for a portion of Tract 35A, Plat of High Point Community, recorded under King County Recording Number 20040413001567, situated in a portion of the Southwest quarter of Section 24, Township 24 North, Range 3 East and a portion of the Northwest quarter of Section 25, Township 24 North, Range 3 East, Willamette Meridian, from the Highpoint Natural Drainage Landscape, Open Space and Rights of Way Maintenance Association, a Washington non-profit corporation; placing the real property conveyed by such deed under the jurisdiction of the Seattle Department of Transportation and laying off as right-of-way; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

**b. Summary and background of the Legislation:**

This proposed legislation authorizes the Director of the Department of Transportation to acquire, accept, and record a statutory warranty deed for property granted by the Highpoint Natural Drainage Landscape, Open Space and Rights of Way Maintenance Association, a Washington non-profit corporation (“Property”), places the Property under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation, lays it off as right-of-way, and ratifies and confirms prior acts.

The Seattle Housing Authority (“SHA”), in conjunction with the Highpoint Natural Drainage Landscape, Open Space and Rights of Way Maintenance Association, have partnered with the City of Seattle (“City”) to arrange for the transfer of the Property and maintenance responsibilities of the stairway connecting 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southwest to Highpoint Drive Southwest in the Southwest Graham Street right-of-way (“Stairway”). The City and SHA agree that transferring the Property and maintenance responsibilities of the Stairway to the City provides opportunity for the City to enhance the aesthetics of the Stairway and improve safety conditions for this walkway.

West Seattle residents petitioned the City to build a stairway to provide a safe walkway through a steep wooded hillside area in the High Point community of West Seattle for the students of Louisa Boren Junior High School, which is now the Louisa Boren STEM K-8 school, in anticipation of its opening in 1963. The reinforced concrete Stairway was built in 1970, has a pipe railing and a drain gutter, and is approximately 50 feet wide and 198

feet long, consisting of 6 landings that connect the High Point neighborhood to the Longfellow Creek Trail.

The Stairway was built on a portion of Southwest Graham Street right-of-way that was vacated in connection with the High Point redevelopment project and as a result, SHA became responsible for maintaining the Stairway. SHA does not have the funding necessary to continue maintaining the Stairway. Since the City previously owned the Stairway and already owned the right-of-way at the bottom of the stairs, the City considered SHA's request to acquire the Property and take over the maintenance responsibility of the Stairway again. Also, SDOT Roadway Structures maintains most of the stairways in the City. Both SHA and the City have now agreed that transferring the Property and maintenance responsibility of the Stairway back to the City would be beneficial for maintaining the walkway and for addressing any public safety concerns that may arise.

## 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- a. Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? \_\_\_ Yes  No

## 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? \_\_\_ Yes  No
- b. Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?

The costs associated with implementing this ordinance, for example, maintaining the newly-acquired right-of-way, have been anticipated in the 2017 budget.

- c. Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

If this legislation is not implemented, SHA may close the Stairway which will limit accessibility from the Highpoint neighborhood to Longfellow Creek Trail. Additionally, public safety may be impacted if the Stairway is not maintained.

## 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

No.

- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No.

- c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?**

No.

- d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No.

- e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

Yes. The City is accepting a deed as right-of-way as described and depicted in Attachment A to the Ordinance. The vicinity map for the acquisition area is attached as Exhibit 1 to this document.

- f. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?**

There are no known impacts to vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities.

- g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).**

This legislation does not include a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion.

- h. Other Issues:**

None.

**List attachments/exhibits below:**

Exhibit 1 – Vicinity Map of Acquisition Area  
Exhibit 2 – Graphic of Stairway