

Seattle Department of Transportation

2026 Proposed Budget Overview

Seattle City Council Select Budget Committee
September 2026



City of Seattle

Summary

After the passage of the 2024 Transportation Levy, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is prioritizing implementing the Levy, providing core services, and making key investments to support major transportation projects and initiatives in the city.

TOTAL BUDGET (\$000s)	2025 Adopted	2026 Endorsed	2026 Proposed
General Fund	\$56,243	\$57,234	\$59,518
Other Funds	\$618,628	\$578,486	\$611,792
FTE	1,188.5	1,231.5	1,296.0

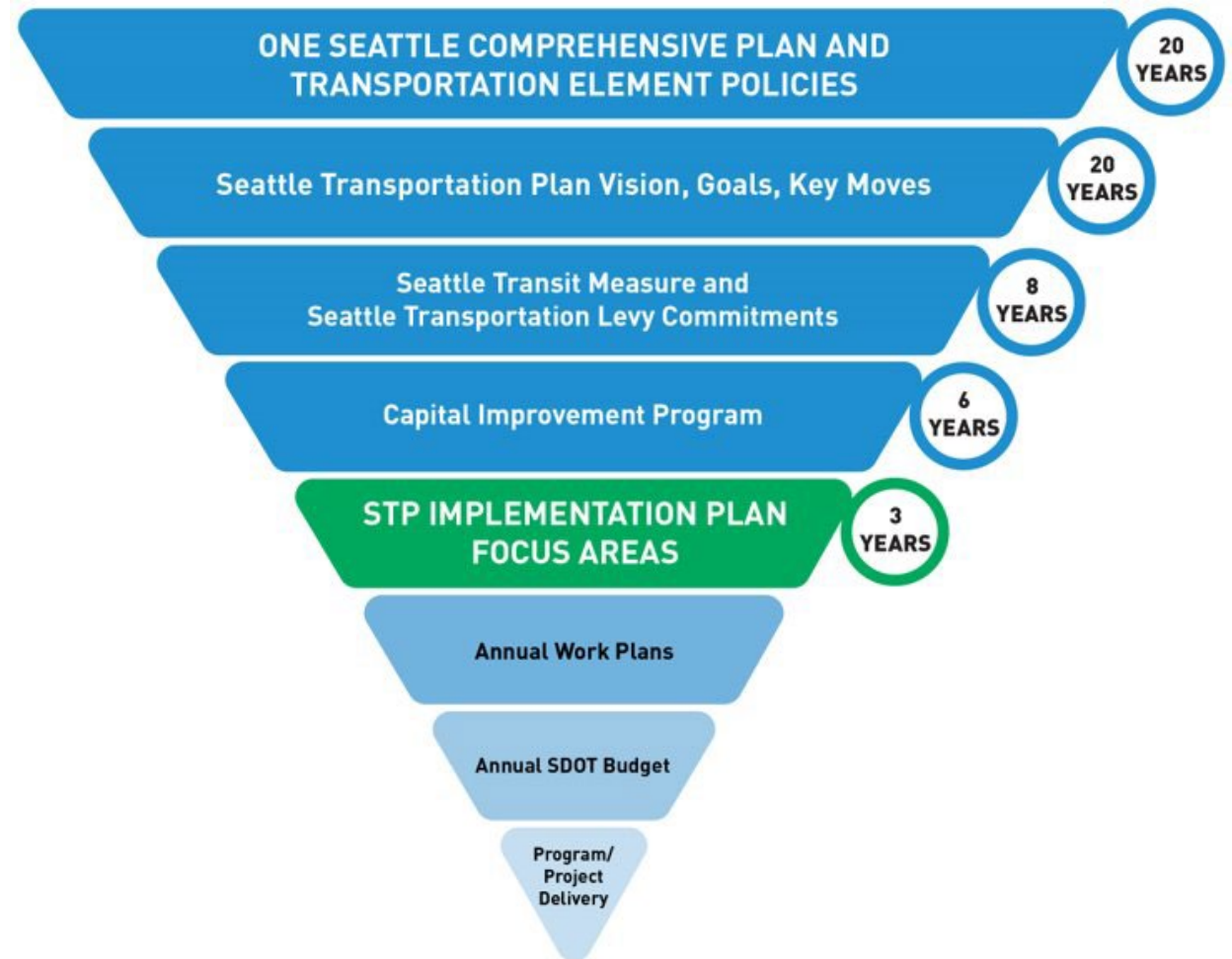
SDOT 2026 Proposed Budget Priorities

This budget maintains our commitment to:

- Meaningful forward-looking investments
- Good governance
- Safety
- Investing in our communities

Investing for Tomorrow—Today

We're investing in Seattle's streets, sidewalks, and public spaces to make the city a great place to live, work, and visit—*now and as we grow*



Good Governance

We take care of what we have, invest wisely, and work as One Seattle across departments and initiatives

Levy Staffing Update

- Hiring staff supports implementation of the 2024 voter-approved \$1.55 billion, 8-year Seattle Transportation Levy
- In 2025, Council approved hiring 72.0 FTE levy positions
- 45.0 FTE are filled and on track to have 58.0 FTE, or 80%, by year end
- In 2026, we'll add 44.0 FTE positions, plus remaining 2025 hires
- 50% of the new levy position salary budget is reduced in 2026 to realign with slower than anticipated hiring



Parking Position Transfer

- Combining all pay station maintenance and operations in one department is an efficient approach
- Finance and Administrative Services will transfer 3.0 FTE vacant pay station coin collector positions and \$273,000 of General Fund to SDOT
- 2.0 FTE of the vacant positions will be reclassified to maintenance technician for coin collection and ensuring pay station functionality



New Street Use Construction Inspection Positions

- Investing in more construction inspections staff to protect public assets, ensure mobility and access while accommodating construction, and to confirm infrastructure is restored
- During economic constraints we are working to improve moving permits through City processes
- 3.0 FTE are proposed using \$1.1 million in revenue-backed Street Use fees



Safety

We lead with safety for all travelers in Seattle

Pike Place Pedestrian Safety

- Upgrading pedestrian safety at Pike Place Market helps protect visitors and supports this historic destination as a welcoming place for everyone
- Support design, testing, and installation of removable vehicle barriers at key locations, allowing emergency vehicle and ADA access and deliveries while preventing unauthorized entry
- \$2.0 million of REET I Capital Fund in one-time funding



12th Ave Retaining Wall Construction

- Implementing a permanent solution on the 3900 block of 12th Ave S to preserve the street, prevent utility impacts, and remove risk of street closure
- Winter storm damage in 2021 and 2022 requires construction of a permanent wall, rebuilding the damaged street, and hill restoration
- \$2.0 million of Commercial Parking Taxes, REETI, and REETII for design and to start construction



Automated Traffic Safety Cameras

- Traffic Safety Camera revenues are now combined into the new Automated Traffic Safety Camera Fund
- Building capacity to support the traffic safety camera program, coordination among SDOT, SPD and Municipal Court, and installation at 10 new locations over 2026/27 helps reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries
- 1.0 FTE and \$1.36 million, \$832,000 one-time and \$528,000 ongoing, in the Automated Traffic Safety Camera Fund



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ZERO
SAFER STREETS FOR SEATTLE

 **Seattle**
Department of
Transportation

Community Investments

We believe streets are for people and contribute to the places we love

Addressing Unpermitted Vending

- Unpermitted vendors in the right-of-way have increased in scale beyond our ability to effectively address, particularly near venues and busy spots during evenings and weekends
- Adding staff means better addressing unpermitted vending, keeping sidewalks clear, and responding more quickly to complaints
- 3.0 FTE and \$1.6 million of General Fund



Graffiti Prevention & Abatement

- Using a One Seattle approach, SDOT will partner with Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Office of Arts and Culture, to support public art, graffiti prevention, and volunteer clean-up efforts, along with removing graffiti and assisting impacted businesses
- 5.0 FTE are proposed and an ongoing budget of \$1.2 million of General Fund



Artist Stevie Shao smiles in front of one of her completed murals

Downtown Daily Cleaning

- Providing cleaning, trash mitigation, alley, street and sidewalk deodorizing on over 30 blocks of City streets within the Downtown and Little Saigon neighborhoods since 2024 keeps the right-of-way ready for use
- The proposed funding maintains the same service levels in Pioneer Square, Pike Pine, and the Chinatown-International District
- 16.0 FTE and \$4.1 million of General Fund



Preparing for FIFA World Cup 26

- Enhancing operations and accessibility will help meet the goal of 80% of the 750,000 visitors traveling to events by transit, bike, walking, and rolling
- Support accessibility and enhanced operations critical to managing a safe, efficient, and accessible transportation network for now and in the future
- \$3.5 million in PET and Unrestricted Cumulative Reserve Fund in City contribution



Questions?

Thank you!