

2017 - 2018 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
65	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Streetcar and bicycle safety report

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: O'Brien, Mike

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Johnson

Staff Analyst: Calvin Chow

Date		Total	SB	TB	LG	BH	LH	RJ	DJ	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

SDOT has convened a workgroup to address bicycle safety concerns in the design of the Center City Streetcar Connector project and to explore and evaluate bicycle safety improvements that could be made to the existing South Lake Union and First Hill streetcar lines. This Statement of Legislative Intent requests that SDOT provide a report on the recommendations from the streetcar safety design workgroup, addressing the following questions:

1. What recommendations resulted from the streetcar/bike design group regarding the existing streetcar lines?
2. What is the implementation plan and anticipated resource allocation for making safety improvements along the existing streetcar lines? As part of the SLI response, SDOT should address the potential for project implementation in 2017.
3. What are current best practices for streetcar/bicycle safety, and how will the Center City Connector design meet and/or exceed these best practices?
4. How does the Center City Streetcar Connector alignment coordinate with One Center City and the development of a downtown bike network?
5. How will freight movements be accommodated with other transportation modes along the route?

Background:

Streetcar tracks are a known hazard to people riding bicycles, as the track flangeway – the gap that secures the streetcar wheel – is wide enough to catch most bicycle tires. SDOT plans to add additional tracks to link two existing lines with the Center City Connector. This project will run through downtown primarily along 1st

Avenue and Stewart Street. There is concern among bicycle community stakeholders that there have not been enough measures taken to address safety on both existing and proposed streetcar tracks, as well as how these measures work in collaboration with existing and planned multi-modal infrastructure as outlined in the City's various transportation Master Plans and Implementation Plans.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Sustainability and Transportation Committee

Date Due to Council: March 31, 2017