SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Transportation	Alyse Nelson	Jennifer Breeze

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to street and sidewalk use; amending the Street Use Fee Schedule authorized by Section 15.04.074 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: This legislation amends the Street Use Fee Schedule to reflect updated fees and to make the following changes:

- Defines and separates development-related and non-development-related tree planting, pruning, and removal permit fees. Development-related tree permits will now have hourly review and inspection fees. This legislation also updates tree-related citation penalty fees.

- Updates the Fee Schedule to reflect the January 1, 2026 sunset of the citywide fee waiver for new permit applications for street and sidewalk activities and vending as authorized under Ordinance 126915.

- Increases permit issuance, renewal, and hourly service rates by 2.6% to account for inflation as calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area since they were last adjusted in 2024 for the 2025 Street Use Fee Schedule. This is allowed administratively by ordinance but is being included in this update for efficiency.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

	2026	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.	2030 est.
Expenditure Change ($); General Fund					

	2026	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.	2030 est.
Expenditure Change ($); Other Funds					

	2026	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.	2030 est.
Revenue Change ($); General Fund					

Revenue Change ($); Other Funds	2026	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.	2030 est.
	$1,764,000	$1,764,000	$1,764,000	$1,764,000	$1,764,000

Number of Positions	2026	2027 est.	2028 est.	2029 est.	2030 est.
Total FTE Change	**2026**	**2027 est.**	**2028 est.**	**2029 est.**	**2030 est.**

3.a. Appropriations

☐ **This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.**

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

☒ **This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.**

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from This Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Dept	Revenue Source	2026 Revenue	2027 Estimated Revenue
Transportation Fund (Fund 13000)	SDOT	OTR0011S - SU Fees-Service	$1,750,000	$1,750,000
		OTR0011U - SU Fees-Use, Occ, Penalty	$14,000	$14,000
		TOTAL	**$1,764,000**	**$1,764,000**

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

The proposed Fee Schedule update may have several revenue implications:

- Increasing hourly service rates, issuance, and renewal fees by an inflation factor of 2.6% (the weighted 12-month CPI-W for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area as of June 2025) will help us keep up with inflation. We estimate that this change will increase revenue by $796,000.

- Street Tree permit fees related to development activity will now include hourly review and inspection service fees, which will increase our ability to pay for SDOT Urban Forestry staff who complete permit-related work.
  - Although no new positions are proposed with this Fee Schedule update, this will allow us to consider future expansions to staffing to be able to keep up with development-related permit review, inspection, and enforcement.
  - We estimate that this change will increase revenue by $954,000, based on 650 anticipated annual permits with an average of four hours of review and inspection each at an hourly rate of $367.

- Updates to citation fees for tree-related activities will better align the citation fees for right-of-way trees with the enforcement penalties on private property issued by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI). Over the past few years, we have only issued a few citations, so this increase is not anticipated to be significant. With a volume of 15 citations per year, the increased penalties would increase revenues by $14,000.

- The updated Fee Schedule reflects the January 1, 2026 sunset of the fee waiver for street and sidewalk activities vending which was authorized under Ordinance 126915. While this legislation updates the Fee Schedule to reflect the sunset of the fee waiver, this legislation does not have any fiscal impacts related to the fee waiver sunset, as the sunset was already specified by Ordinance 126915.

3.c. Positions

☐ **This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.**

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.
No.

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

There are no costs directly associated with implementing this legislation. Updating the Fee Schedule is a standard business process that SDOT conducts routinely with existing resources.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

Not implementing the legislation would have costs because inflation would not be accounted for in our Fee Schedule, meaning we would be getting less value from use and occupancy fees that are intended to add value to Seattle residents and businesses in the form of managing right-of-way, activating public space, and leveraging development and utility restoration efforts. The adjustments to issuance, renewal, and hourly service rates; updates focused on tree planting, pruning, and removal; and updates to citation fees will help SDOT advance towards the codified goal of full cost recovery of operating costs.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.

This legislation would affect other City Departments that pay SDOT for Street Use permits for their work in the public right-of-way, including Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle City Light.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?
No.

b. Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?
No.

c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?
No.

d. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.
This legislation impacts all Street Use permit applicants, including businesses, residents, developers, and public and private utilities. It will not disproportionately impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities.

ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.
Not applicable.

iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?
We will work with our public engagement and communications staff to develop an appropriate plan to inform affected parties about the Fee Schedule updates. Typically, that includes emails or newsletters to permittees, website updates, and sharing with affected internal and external stakeholders both via email and at appropriate standing meetings.

e. Climate Change Implications

i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.
No.

ii. **Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**
No.

f. 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)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?
Not applicable.

g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?
No.

5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: None.