

# Transportation Levy Proposal



Seattle City Council  
June 4, 2024



# Presentation Purpose

Expand on key elements in the Transportation Levy Proposal to inform Select Committee deliberations

Focus today includes how the proposal:

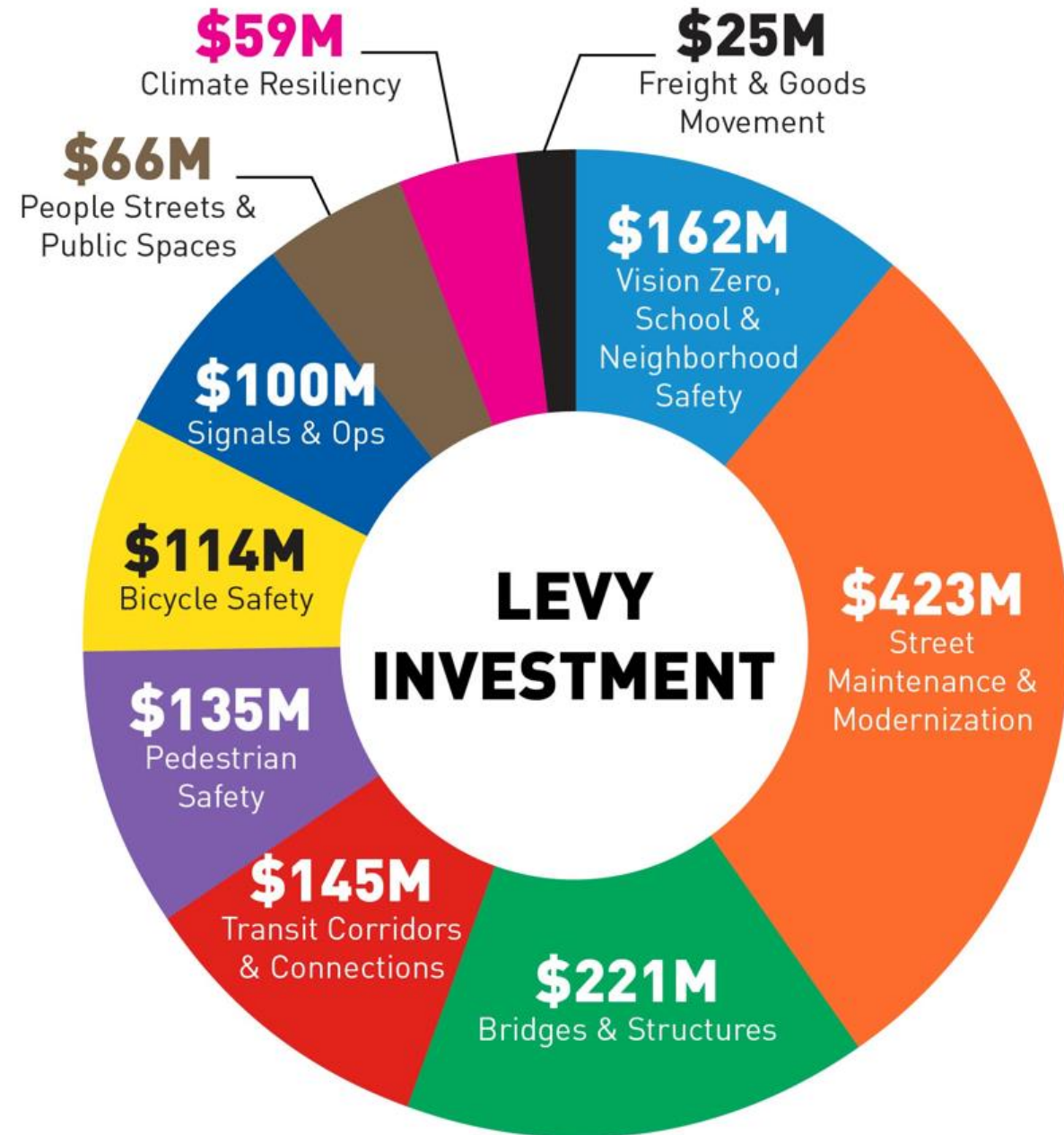
- ✓ Integrates with the adopted **Seattle Transportation Plan**, including goals and implementation planning
- ✓ Supports the City's **Race & Social Justice Ordinance**, codified into law in 2023
- ✓ Is responsive to **Levy Oversight Committee recommendations** on a future levy
- ✓ Responds to Seattle's **asset management** needs
- ✓ Plans for **long-term funding needs** for assets like bridges and sidewalks



Indicates areas reflective of Levy Oversight Committee recommendation

# Reminder: Proposal Overview

- ✓ 8-year, \$1.45 billion levy proposal to fund transportation safety and maintenance in Seattle
- ✓ Would cost owner of median-value home \$16 more per month than today
- ✓ Allows SDOT to leverage additional \$350-450M in grants and partner funds
- ✓ Reflects One Seattle vision for a safe, reliable, and connected transportation system







## Integration with adopted Seattle Transportation Plan

# Levy deliverables support STP goals and outcomes

Examples include:

## SAFETY



*Prioritize safety for travelers in Seattle, with no serious injury or fatal crashes*

**Deliver Vision Zero improvements in prioritized high-collision areas and safety corridor projects on the High Injury Network**

## MOBILITY & ECONOMIC VITALITY



*Provide reliable and affordable travel options that help people and goods get where they need to go*

**Implement projects citywide to improve freight and bus reliability, access, and safety**

## EQUITY



*Co-create with community and implement restorative practices to address transportation-related inequities*

**Co-create Neighborhood-Initiated Safety Partnership projects**

## LIVABILITY



*Reimagine city streets as inviting places to linger and play*

**Co-create People Streets, Public Spaces projects with business districts and community organizations, including street redesigns, seating, wayfinding, activation, and lighting at transit plazas**

## SUSTAINABILITY



*Respond to climate change through innovation and a lens of climate justice*

**Support partnerships that help electrify the transportation system; Launch strategies for low-pollution neighborhoods**

## MAINTENANCE & MODERNIZATION



*Improve city transportation infrastructure and ready it for the future*

**Repave major corridors, representing the most traveled locations where streets are in poor condition; launch a preventative maintenance program for the City's bridges**

# Utilizing levy investment to implement STP



2024

- Resolution passed to adopt Seattle Transportation Plan with requirement for 2025 implementation plan
- Initial Levy workplan
- 2025-2026 Budget and 6-year Capital Improvement Plan (2025 - 2030)



2025

- Annual Levy Workplan; Oversight Committee review
- 4-year Seattle Transportation Plan Implementation Plan incorporating levy-funded projects and programs



2026 -2032

- Annual Levy Workplans; Oversight Committee review
- Aligned with annual budget process



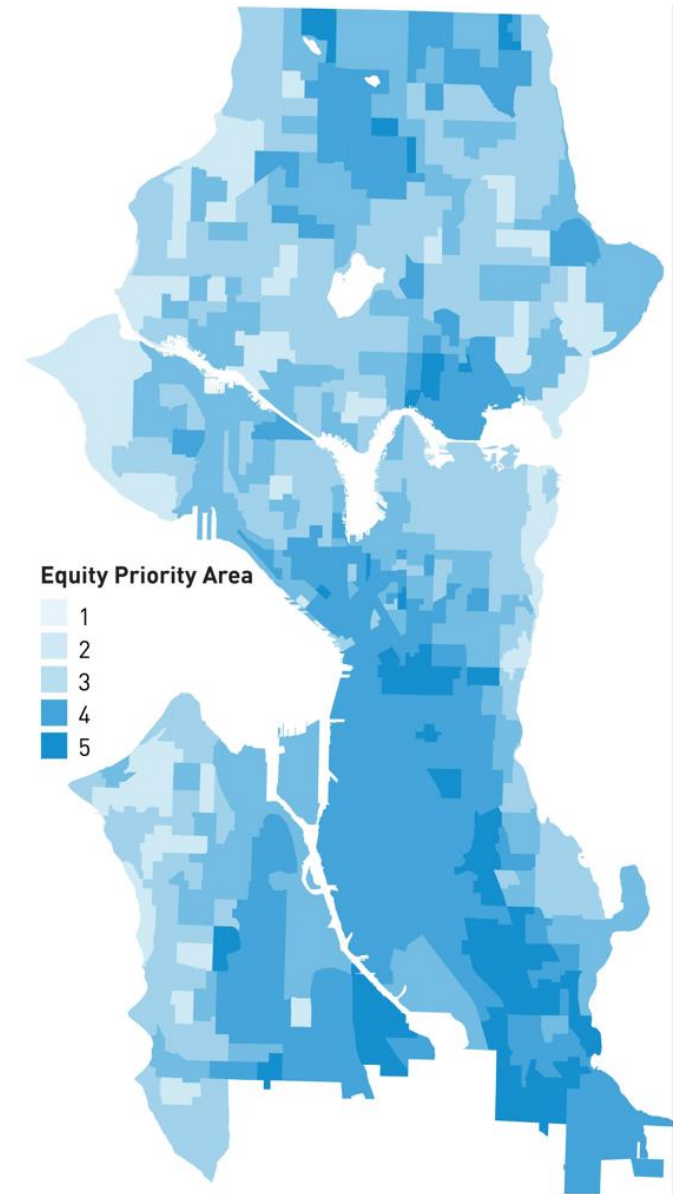


## Integration with City's Race and Social Justice Initiative



# Race and Social Justice Framework

- Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) in place since 2004; codified into law in 2023
- Backbone of City's commitment to eliminating racial disparities & achieving racial equity in Seattle
- City's Race and Social Equity Index guides City resources to underinvested communities:
  - People of color, English language learners, and foreign-born
  - People with lower income and educational attainment
  - Adults with disability, disease, and health disadvantages





# Equitable investment reverberates citywide

- Levy investments provide access to opportunity and benefit people within and beyond districts
- Transportation is essential to access key services like jobs, education, healthcare, community, and entertainment
- Addressing transportation inequities helps reduce disproportionate rates of illness, death, social isolation, and poverty; long-term impacts of pollution; and limited access to opportunities and wealth



# Equity in the Levy Proposal

Levy proposal equips SDOT with the resources to invest in historically underinvested communities, focuses investments in areas of high equity priority, and fosters growth of our day-to-day equity practice.

## Equity Key Moves from the Seattle

### Transportation Plan guide the proposal:

- Center voices of communities of color and underrepresented groups in planning and decision-making processes
- Address inequities in the transportation system by prioritizing investments for impacted communities
- Remove cost as a barrier so everyone can take the trips they need to make
- Support shifts toward non-punitive transportation enforcement approaches that reduce harm and enhance public safety on city streets

## Racial Equity Toolkit analysis informed:

- Project identification
- Equitable engagement
- People Streets Public Spaces
- Neighborhood Programs and other selections within programs
- Co-creation with community and implementation of restorative practices to address transportation-related inequities







## Integration with Seattle's asset management needs

# Significant investments; significant needs



Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program driven by life cycle approach; multiple bridges nearing end of design life



Key paving corridors address poor condition on busy streets; citywide pavement condition does not improve



Sidewalk surge doubles pace of new sidewalks built; long-term strategy needed to sustain



# Meeting Seattle's asset management needs

The levy proposal's approach toward addressing Seattle's asset management needs and a sustainable long-term funding strategy



1. Increase maintenance and modernization funding over Levy to Move Seattle
2. Use Life Cycle Cost Analysis to inform investments
3. Launch Preventative Bridge Maintenance Program -- right investment at the right time
4. Create a Transportation Funding Task Force for transparency, consensus building, and recommendations

# Creating a sustainable long-term funding strategy

## Transportation Funding Task Force

### Landscape

- Public call for more bridge, paving and sidewalk investment
- Large funding needs beyond levy proposal
- City dependence on voter-approved measures for range of investments
- Technical expertise and broad community support needed to address challenges

### Scope

- Transparently incorporate community and technical perspectives
- Build consensus among stakeholders on policy and funding strategies
- Analyze and recommend to Mayor and City Council:
  - Policy changes to increase sidewalk repair and new sidewalk construction
  - Strategies to address funding stabilization and other asset management needs



# Transportation Funding Task Force *Potential Perspectives*

## Membership

- Accessibility and transportation advocacy organizations
- City Councilmembers
- Labor and building trades
- Development community
- Business and neighborhood perspectives
- Representatives from City's Transportation Boards & Committees, Transportation Equity Workgroup

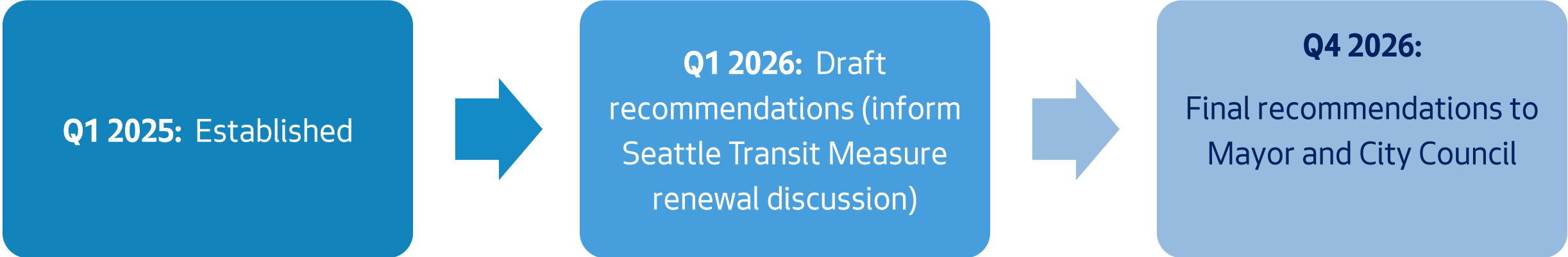
## Technical Support

- National funding expertise (federal and state grants, bonding)
- External financing expertise
- Legal support

## Internal Support

- Consultant facilitator
- Technical staff team

# Transportation Funding Task Force *Timeline*





# Task Force Expected to Recommend

- Changes to City policies to increase sidewalk repair and new sidewalk construction
- Specific packages of grants, city sources, bonds, and/or other funding measures as allowed by current law to address sidewalk, bridge and paving needs
- Strategies to achieve predictable, dedicated transportation funding through consideration of voter approved measures and the proportion of city funds dedicated to transportation

# Thank you

