

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION relating to transportation; accompanying an ordinance requesting the 2024 Transportation Levy for citywide transportation maintenance and improvements, and providing further direction regarding reporting and implementation of the programs to be funded by the levy.

..body

WHEREAS, Seattle voters have approved two previous transportation levies to fund significant transportation system maintenance and upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Bridging the Gap Levy and the 2015 Levy to Move Seattle improvements included street paving, rehabilitation and seismic retrofit of bridges, transit corridor enhancements, new sidewalk construction, street sign replacements, crosswalk restriping, school safety-related projects, neighborhood-focused projects, and other activities to maintain and enhance The City of Seattle’s (“City’s”) vast transportation system; and

WHEREAS, in April 2024, the City Council passed Resolution 32131 adopting a multimodal transportation vision and strategy for the next 20 years, known as the Seattle Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the adopted Seattle Transportation Plan sets forth several goals to guide future investments in transportation, including prioritizing safety for all travelers, implementing restorative practices to address transportation related inequities, responding to climate change through innovation and a lens of climate justice, providing reliable and affordable travel options that help people and goods get where they need to go, reimagining streets as inviting places to linger and play, and improving City infrastructure for the future; and

1 WHEREAS, the 2015 Levy to Move Seattle expires at the end of 2024 and the funding it
2 provides must be replaced to continue investments in the City’s transportation system to
3 meet Seattle’s transportation needs over the next eight years; and

4 WHEREAS, the 2015 Levy to Move Seattle revenue accounts for over 30 percent of the Seattle
5 Department of Transportation’s dedicated transportation revenue and serves as a critical
6 resource for maintaining bridges, repairing roads, and filling potholes; and

7 WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to provide further direction regarding reporting and
8 implementation of the programs to be funded by the 2024 Transportation Levy; NOW,
9 THEREFORE,

10 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

11 Section 1. 2024 Transportation Levy. The City Council passed Council Bill 120788,
12 placing a proposition to authorize an eight-year transportation levy (“2024 Transportation Levy”)
13 on the ballot in November 2024. This resolution requests the Executive to complete certain
14 activities to ensure successful implementation of the programs and activities to be funded by the
15 2024 Transportation Levy, if the ballot measure is approved by the voters.

16 Section 2. Program Implementation. The proceeds generated by the 2024 Transportation
17 Levy must be spent in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of Council Bill 120788. The
18 transportation improvements to be funded are described in Section 6 and Attachment A to
19 Council Bill 120788 and include the following core investment areas: (i) Vision Zero, School
20 and Neighborhood Safety; (ii) Street Maintenance and Modernization; (iii) Bridges and
21 Structures; (iv) Transit Corridors and Connections; (v) Pedestrian Safety; (vi) Signals and
22 Operations; (vii) Bicycle Safety; (viii) People Streets and Public Spaces; (ix) Climate and
23 Resiliency; (x) Freight and Goods Movement; and (xi) Good Governance and Equitable

1 Implementation Initiative. Funding for the programs and activities will be subject to City Council
2 decisions made during the annual budget process. The Council requests that the Seattle
3 Department of Transportation (“SDOT”) address the following guidance and expectations in
4 future budget proposals and program implementation:

5 A. District Project Fund. In the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget, provide procedures and
6 processes for administration of the District Project Fund. The proposal should describe how
7 projects will be identified, evaluated, and selected, and the process for receiving Council
8 approval of funding allocations. The proposal should give special consideration to ensuring
9 accountability and transparency with regard to program and project award decisions.

10 B. Neighborhood-Initiated Safety Partnership Program. In the 2025-2026 Proposed
11 Budget, provide procedures and processes for administration of the Neighborhood-Initiated
12 Safety Partnership Program. The proposal should describe the processes for partnering with
13 neighborhood and community groups and soliciting projects, evaluating and developing project
14 proposals, and the project selection process, including by defining project prioritization factors
15 and selection criteria.

16 C. Transit Passenger Safety. In the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget, provide a description of
17 how funding for this purpose will be used. The proposal should primarily prioritize funding for
18 transit and public safety personnel services on-transit, with secondary consideration given to
19 infrastructure improvements for physical security. Funding should be frontloaded for the greatest
20 impact in the near-term to (1) provide a safe, welcoming environment for transit riders and
21 operators, (2) reset and improve upon passenger norms regarding what constitutes acceptable
22 behavior and conduct while riding transit, (3) increase the public’s perception of safety and
23 security while riding transit, and (4) boost ridership. SDOT should coordinate implementation of

1 any strategies with King County Metro (“Metro”), and the funding designated for this purpose
2 should not be used to supplant Metro’s funding for personnel security services.

3 D. Electric Vehicle Charging. In the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget, provide a detailed plan
4 for the deployment of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the duration of the levy. The
5 plan should seek to deploy an equal number of new level two and level three charging stations,
6 and it should include a monitoring plan to track the deployments against the identified need for
7 charging infrastructure. Additionally, the plan should describe how SDOT and other City
8 departments intend to pursue non-City sources of funding for this purpose, including federal and
9 state grants and public-private partnerships.

10 E. Access During Construction. Prior to any transportation improvement project entering
11 construction, SDOT should ensure that the plans maintain an accessible path of travel and
12 comply with applicable law governing accessibility standards, including the Americans with
13 Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq.* (“ADA”), the 2010 ADA Standards, the
14 Washington Law Against Discrimination, RCW 49.60 *et seq.* (“WLAD”), and the Consent
15 Decree in *Reynoldson v. City of Seattle*, 2017 WL 9470569 (W.D. Wash. 2017), throughout the
16 duration of the project.

17 F. Project Coordination. SDOT should enhance its efforts to coordinate the construction
18 of infrastructure projects throughout the city to minimize disruptions to communities and avoid
19 the need for streets and sidewalks to be restored multiple times within a short timeframe.

20 G. Transportation Funding Task Force. The 2024 Transportation Levy includes funding
21 to support a Transportation Funding Task Force that would be charged with recommending a
22 broad range of funding and policy solutions to address Seattle’s significant transportation
23 infrastructure needs. The Council requests that SDOT propose legislation establishing the Task

1 Force to the Council by August 1, 2024, and that the proposal include a diverse membership that
2 represents the perspectives of neighborhoods, businesses, accessibility and mobility advocates,
3 labor, and the development community. The Task Force should focus on practicable options that
4 the City could consider and unilaterally implement in a short timeframe, and final
5 recommendations should be delivered to the City by the end of 2027. The Council expects the
6 Task Force to direct particular attention to the transportation network's greatest needs, including
7 sidewalks, bridges, and paving projects. If the Task Force recommends a new levy to generate
8 funding for the maintenance and repair of existing road and bridge infrastructure and that levy is
9 subsequently approved by voters, the Council may consider commensurately reducing tax
10 collections from the 2024 Transportation Levy intended for the same purposes.

11 H. Freight and Goods Movement. SDOT should continue exploring zero-emission
12 alternatives for "last-mile" deliveries to customers to reduce carbon emissions, alleviate traffic
13 congestion, and increase business efficiency.

14 I. Bridges and Structures

15 1. Under the Magnolia Bridge Replacement Alternatives Cost Estimate updates in
16 the Project Readiness category, SDOT should evaluate emergency access routes, including a
17 potential connection from W Galer St to W Marina Pl.

18 2. Under the Bridge Structural Repairs and Upgrades category, SDOT should
19 consider widened pedestrian access across Ballard Bridge using a cantilevered design on the
20 bridge approaches.

21 Section 3. Oversight and Reporting. Section 7 of Council Bill 120788 establishes an
22 Oversight Committee to monitor revenues, expenditures, and program and project
23 implementation, as well as to provide advice to the City on the spending of levy proceeds.

1 Section 8 of Council Bill 120788 specifies the reporting requirements of the Director of
2 Transportation, including an annual progress report on levy spending and project and program
3 delivery. In addition to the oversight responsibilities and reporting requirements contained in
4 Sections 7 and 8 of Council Bill 120788, the Council requests the following:

5 A. Asset Condition. The Oversight Committee should take into consideration the state of
6 SDOT’s assets, including pavement (e.g., asset sustainability ratio, paving condition index),
7 sidewalks (e.g., sidewalk inventory, missing sidewalk segments), and bridges (e.g., bridge
8 rating).

9 B. Performance Evaluation. The Oversight Committee should focus particular attention
10 on the performance of maintenance programs for bridges, paving, pothole repair, and sidewalks.

11 C. Readiness Assessment, Preparation, and Planning. SDOT should prepare an initial
12 readiness assessment and high-level implementation plan to demonstrate its ability to deliver
13 2024 Transportation Levy programs and projects on-time and on-budget (collectively, the “Levy
14 Readiness & Action Plan”). The Levy Readiness & Action Plan should include a spending plan
15 for levy proceeds that takes into account SDOT’s potential capacity constraints, including those
16 related to staffing, hiring, and contracting. The Council requests that SDOT submit the Levy
17 Readiness & Action Plan to the Chair of the Council’s Transportation Committee by September
18 30, 2024.

19 D. Annual Levy Delivery Plan. For each year of the 2024 Transportation Levy, SDOT
20 should prepare a plan describing anticipated levy spending and program and project deliverables
21 for the upcoming year. The plan should also describe how the anticipated annual spending
22 comports with or deviates from the overall levy spending assumptions. The Council requests that

1 SDOT submit an annual plan to the Chair of the Council’s Transportation Committee beginning
2 on January 31, 2025, and every year of the levy thereafter.

3 E. Post-Project Delivery Evaluation. Upon completion of any capital project with a
4 contracted cost of at least \$50 million expected to be in construction for one year or more (from
5 notice to proceed to substantial completion) that may disrupt small business access, SDOT is
6 requested to conduct an evaluation of project delivery and the project as completed. This should
7 include, but not be limited to: (1) soliciting feedback from community members, businesses, and
8 organizations located in the impacted area to understand their experience during construction and
9 six to 12 months after the project is completed; (2) a comparative analysis of transportation
10 conditions pre- and post-construction (i.e., changes in pedestrian activity, transit ridership and
11 travel time performance, and/or driver behavior when the street is redesigned); (3) an assessment
12 of whether construction disruptions exceeded impacts SDOT communicated to adjacent residents
13 and businesses through pre-construction outreach; and (4) lessons learned that could help the
14 City more effectively deliver future projects, with a focus on those measures that are most cost-
15 effective. Once SDOT has completed the evaluation, it should present the findings to the Council
16 annually through 2028 and make them available on a City webpage. The evaluation and findings
17 should be presented to the Council no later than June 1, beginning on June 1, 2025, and every
18 year thereafter until June 1, 2028.

19 Section 4. Issues for Future Council Consideration. The eight-year term of the 2024
20 Transportation Levy provides an opportunity for the Council to explore specific transportation
21 topics in greater detail and consider if additional policy direction or adjustments are necessary to
22 meet Seattle’s transportation needs. The Council intends to engage further on the following
23 issues during the duration of the levy:

1 A. Vision Zero. The Council plans to review the implementation of Vision Zero, with a
2 focus on investments in corridors identified in the High Injury Network, and evaluate SDOT’s
3 alignment with the federal Safe Systems Approach, which considers five elements of a safe
4 transportation system: safe road users, safe vehicles, safe speeds, safe roads, and post-crash care.
5 The Council requests that the Executive expand the City’s network of traffic cameras and
6 increase civilian staffing to further the goals of Vision Zero and generate revenue for Safe
7 Routes to Schools and other traffic safety improvements.

8 B. Paving/Corridor Project Scoping. The Council intends to review the process by which
9 SDOT scopes and develops major paving and corridor projects. The review will: (i) evaluate the
10 City’s current policies governing the planning, design, and implementation of paving projects,
11 including Complete Streets; (ii) evaluate the City’s ability to efficiently and effectively fund
12 transportation improvements; (iii) review SDOT’s incorporation of community feedback and
13 outreach into project decisions; and (iv) explore the Council’s role in making funding decisions
14 for individual projects.

15 C. General Fund Support. Section 5 of Council Bill 120788 specifies that the minimum
16 annual General Fund appropriation is \$50,740,000 in the first year of the levy, which will be
17 increased in each subsequent year of the levy by an inflationary factor. The Council intends to
18 review the level of General Fund support for transportation purposes as financial conditions
19 allow and during the consideration of annual budget proposals.

20 D. Lidding Interstate 5. The Council intends to support community efforts to lid
21 Interstate 5 (“I-5”) and will encourage City departments to pursue the next steps recommended
22 by the City’s “I-5 Lid Feasibility Study Summary Report” published in September 2020.

