



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

2024 Transportation Levy – Issue ID

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON 2024 TRANSPORTATION LEVY

MAY 21, 2024

Mayor's 2024 Transportation Levy Proposal

- The proposal is for a **\$1.45 billion, eight-year** property tax levy to renew the existing Move Seattle Levy.
- For the Seattle median assessed value home (\$804,000 in 2024), the annual property tax bill would be **\$469**.
- For comparison with the existing Move Seattle Levy:
 - Move Seattle was a **\$930 million, nine-year** levy.
 - Seattle median home property tax bill for 2024 was **\$300**.
 - An inflation-only renewal of the Move Seattle Levy would be approximately a **\$1.2 billion, eight-year** levy.

Levy Spending Comparison

Category	Move Seattle (2015)		Mayor's Proposal (2024)	
	9-year Revenue	% share	8-Year Revenue	% share
a. Vision Zero, School & Neighborhood Safety	\$55 million	5.9%	\$162 million	11.2%
b. Street Maintenance and Modernization	\$253 million	27.2%	\$423 million	29.2%
c. Bridges and Structures	\$149 million	16.0%	\$221 million	15.2%
d. Transit Corridors and Connections	\$165 million	17.7%	\$145 million	10.0%
e. Pedestrian Safety	\$103 million	11.1%	\$135 million	9.3%
f. Signals and Operations	\$66 million	7.1%	\$100 million	6.9%
g. Bicycle Safety	\$72 million	7.7%	\$114 million	7.9%
h. People Streets and Public Safety	--	0.0%	\$66 million	4.6%
i. Climate and Resiliency	\$30 million	3.2%	\$59 million	4.1%
j. Freight and Goods Movement	\$38 million	4.1%	\$25 million	1.7%
Total:	\$931 million		\$1,450 million	

[Attachment A](#) to CB 120788 provides details of proposed spending and anticipated deliverables.

Council Bill (CB) 120788

- Places the levy proposal on the **November 2024** General Election.
- Establishes the **terms and conditions** of levy collection and the allowable spending of levy proceeds.
- Once approved by voters, these terms **cannot be changed** without going back to voters.
- Three approaches to consider for potential changes to the levy or to establish Council direction:
 1. Binding commitments through amendments to CB 120788.
 2. Separate, companion legislation to CB 120788.
 3. Defer to Council's annual budget process or future legislation.

Issue 1 – General Terms of Levy

- Legislation proposes a **\$1.45 billion, eight-year** property tax levy.
- Requires a **minimum annual General Fund appropriation** for transportation purposes as part of the City's budget (no supplantation). Consistent with Move Seattle Levy.
- Options:
 - A. Change the \$1.45 billion size of the levy.
 - B. Change the eight-year term of the levy.
 - C. Modify General Fund requirement or other general provisions.

Issue 2 – Legal Spending Requirements

- Legislation identifies **anticipated spending** for levy programs (in Attachment A), but **does not mandate** required spending levels.
- This approach provides more **flexibility** during budget to adapt to changing conditions or emerging needs.
- Move Seattle Levy established total appropriation requirements for 3 categories of spending and a specific funding commitment for one project.
- Options:
 - A. Add spending requirements for categories of levy spending.
 - B. Add spending requirements for specific projects or programs.
 - C. No change; defer to future budget, levy oversight, and reporting.

Issue 3 – Allocations/Levy Commitments

- Attachment A establishes **allowable uses** of levy proceeds and identifies **anticipated spending** for 10 categories of levy programs.
- Some programs **identify specific locations** for initial investments/deliverables.
- New programs of note include the **District Project Fund** and the **Neighborhood-Initiated Safety Partnership Program**.
- Options:
 - A. Authorize levy spending for programs not in the Mayor's proposal.
 - B. Adjust anticipated spending across levy projects and programs.
 - C. Modify specific project commitments identified in Attachment A.

Issue 4 – Levy Oversight Committee

- Move Seattle Levy Oversight Committee presented recommendations at May 7 Select Committee. **Most recommendations reflected in proposal.**
- Recommendation for **levy funding to support oversight capacity**, including potential audit of levy programs, was not included in proposal.
- Proposed **composition** of Oversight Committee differs from Move Seattle (shown on next slide).
- Options:
 - A. Add back direct Councilmember representation on Oversight Committee.
 - B. Revise composition, roles, or expertise requirements.
 - C. Allocate levy resources for Oversight Committee activities.

Oversight Committee Composition

Move Seattle Levy (2015)	Mayor's Levy Proposal (2024)
Four representatives from the transportation modal boards (one each from the pedestrian, bicycle, freight, and transit modal boards)	Four representatives from the transportation modal boards (one each from the pedestrian, bicycle, freight, and transit modal boards)
Five Council-appointed residents, including a licensed engineer with bridge and structures experience	Seven Council-appointed residents, with one representative for each Council District
Five Mayor-appointed residents	Five Mayor-appointed residents
--	Get Engaged youth appointee
Chair of Transportation Committee	--
City Budget Director	City Budget Director
16 Levy Oversight Committee Members	18 Levy Oversight Committee Members

Issue 5 – Reporting Requirements

- Legislation requires **annual reporting**, consistent with Move Seattle. However, Move Seattle included more specifics on what is included in reports.
- Over the course of Move Seattle, SDOT developed **dashboard** tools and **supplemental reports** for the Oversight Committee and the public.
- Expectation is to maintain this more detailed reporting, but this is not specifically called out as a requirement in the legislation.
- Options:
 - A. Add requirement for dashboard reporting or other reports.
 - B. Add detail on specific information to include in annual reports.
 - C. Add reporting on specific issues (Move Seattle highlighted bridges).
 - D. No change; defer to Oversight Committee and continuity of existing reporting.

Issue 6 – Transportation Funding Task Force

- Mayor's proposal calls for creating a Funding Task Force for **sidewalks, bridges,** and other transportation asset.
- Legislation provides for **levy funding** to support this work, but separate legislation to create the task force has not been transmitted.
- Legislation to create the task force could be considered on a separate **schedule** from the levy legislation.
- Options:
 - A. Develop legislation to establish task force.

Issue 7 – Other Implementation Issues

- Legislation establishes allowed uses and legal restrictions which cannot be changed without going back to voters.
- Council may have interest in implementation issues that are **beyond the scope** of this legislation.
- In considering other levy proposals, Council has, at times, developed **companion legislation** to express Council's intent or identify issues for further analysis.
- Options:
 - A. Develop a companion resolution to the levy legislation.

**Questions?
Follow-up?**