

August 15, 2024

MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Committee
From: Calvin Chow, Analyst
Subject: Transportation Funding Task Force – Resolution 32145

On September 3, 2024, the Transportation Committee will discuss and possibly vote on [Resolution 32145](#) to establish a Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF) charged with developing policy and funding recommendations for the Mayor and City Council to address the long-term needs of Seattle' sidewalks, roads, and bridges. The formation of the TFTF would be contingent on voter approval of the 2024 Transportation Levy in the November general election, and final recommendations would be due by December 31, 2027.

Background

In developing the 2024 Transportation Levy ([Ordinance 127053](#)), the Mayor initially proposed the TFTF to explore the viability of long-term funding strategies for transportation infrastructure that go beyond the proposed levy renewal. In a companion resolution to the levy ordinance ([Resolution 32137](#)), the Council affirmed this approach and requested legislation to establish the TFTF, which is the resolution now under Council consideration.

Transportation Funding Task Force Proposal

Upon voter approval of the 2024 Transportation Levy, the proposed legislation would direct the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to establish and convene the TFTF. The proposed legislation calls for the Mayor and Council to work together to appoint task force members and for the TFTF to begin meeting by June 1, 2025. Under this approach, the TFTF appointments would be administered by SDOT. The Council would be consulted, but no formal Council action on appointments would be required.

The proposed legislation calls for the TFTF to be comprised of public stakeholders representing:

- Neighborhoods
- Businesses
- Accessibility and mobility advocates
- Labor
- Development community
- Subject matter experts in transportation project delivery and funding

The proposed legislation directs the TFTF to, at a minimum:

1. Review SDOT's asset management approach and policies related to preservation of sidewalk, bridge, and pavement assets.
2. Review current transportation revenues and funding constraints.
3. Assess project delivery strategies for constructing new sidewalks and sidewalk alternatives; maintaining, rehabilitating, and replacing bridges; and maintaining arterial pavement conditions.
4. Assess funding strategies to meet the long-term infrastructure goals established in the Seattle Transportation Plan and informed through review of SDOT's asset management approach.

This proposed scope is consistent with Council's direction in Resolution 32137. The legislation calls for a final report due to the Council and the Mayor by December 31, 2027. Central Staff intends to track the progress of the TFTF throughout the process.

The work of the TFTF is part of the Durable Infrastructure Solutions program identified in the 2024 Transportation Levy [spending plan](#), which called for developing comprehensive long-range strategies to meet bridge maintenance goals, meet pavement condition goals, and complete the missing sidewalk network. The Durable Infrastructure Solutions program is also tasked with making recommendations for a Transportation Impact Fee (TIF) proposal as a funding strategy. The TFTF would consider TIFs as part of their review and assessment of funding strategies, but developing a specific TIF proposal is beyond the scope of the TFTF.

SDOT anticipates that the work of the TFTF will account for between \$1.5 million and \$2 million of the \$5 million identified for the Durable Infrastructure Solutions program. This amount is intended to fund facilitation, consultant services, and staffing support for the TFTF's activities.

Next Steps

If the Committee votes to recommend passage of Resolution 32145 on September 3, the City Council could take final action on the legislation as soon as September 10. Central Staff is available if you have any questions or concerns with the legislation.

cc: Ben Noble, Director
Yolanda Ho, Deputy Director