

July 8, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Select Budget Committee
From: Traci Ratzliff, Analyst
Subject: CB 121032: Authorizing appropriations to support activities related to the World Cup games in 2026

On July 16, 2025, the Select Budget Committee will discuss and possibly vote on Council Bill (CB) 121032 authorizing appropriations of funds that support activities related to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup games that will be held in Seattle in the summer of 2026.

This memorandum provides relevant background information and summarizes the proposed legislation and appropriations.

Background

The 2025 Adopted Budget and 2026 Endorsed Budget included a total of \$12.2 million of funding dedicated towards supporting the hosting of the World Cup in 2026. These funds were set aside to be appropriated once specific needs were identified. CB 121032 proposes to appropriate about half of these funds for operating and capital activities in 2025 as shown in the table below. After adoption of this legislation, there remains \$1.8 million in 2025 Unrestricted Cumulative Reserve Fund (CRS-U) available to spend and an additional \$4.2 million of Payroll Expense Tax (PET) appropriations in Finance General for 2026 expenditures. As Executive staff work to address the funding shortfall created by the April revenue forecast, they are evaluating whether the full amount of the budgeted funds will be needed for the event.

	2025	2026	CB 121032	Remaining Total
Payroll Expense Tax	\$2.0	\$4.0	(\$1.8)	\$4.2
Unrestricted Cumulative Reserve Fund	\$6.2	-	(\$4.1)	\$1.8
Total	\$8.2	\$4.0	(\$6.1)	\$5.8

The Executive is currently negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Local Organizing Committee for the World Cup that will address the provision of services by the City (e.g., police, fire, etc.) and reimbursable cost expectations for the provision of such services. This MOU will be submitted to the City Council for approval. The Executive has indicated these negotiations should be concluded and the MOU submitted to the City Council this summer.

Summary of Legislation

Below is a description of the amounts and uses of the proposed appropriations included in CB 121032:

Fan Celebration Management – \$896,000

- Seattle Center (CEN) will hire 4.0 FTE TLT positions (Manager 1, Admin Staff Assistant, Sr. Event Representative, Lead Facility Worker) to support day-to-day operations in booking and sales, program coordination, grounds and building laborer crews, and event implementation, through December 2026. Seattle Center has been designated as a fan celebration hub, hosting viewing parties of World Cup matches, concerts, and other events that could draw up to 20,000 people during the soccer matches.

Park Maintenance and Improvements - \$780,000

- Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) will make electrical improvements to Occidental Park, including at the Occidental Park Pavillion. SPR and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) will provide trip hazard mitigation at Westlake Park and Occidental Park, respectively.

Street and Sidewalk Improvements - \$2,120,000

- SDOT will make improvements to signage, signals, and streets near Lumen Field at Holgate and Weller Streets. SDOT will also explore pedestrian safety design strategies for Pike Place Market and establish bike and scooter corrals near key World Cup locations.

Public Safety Risk Mitigation - \$2,418,000

- CEN and SPR will implement vehicle ramming mitigation measures at Seattle Center and Westlake Park, respectively.
- Seattle Fire Department (SFD) will purchase chemical weapon detection and identification (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives) equipment. SFD will also enlist satellite internet services and other equipment and supplies needed to enhance communication and provide increased emergency medical services.

cc: Ben Noble, Director
Calvin Chow, Lead Analyst