



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

Transportation Proviso Lift

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SELECT BUDGET COMMITTEE

MARCH 5, 2025

Legislative Background

- Council submitted the Transportation Levy proposal to voters in July 2024
 - Proposal included [Attachment A: Spending Breakdown](#)
 - Companion Resolution called for an [Annual Levy Delivery Plan](#) by January 31 of each year
- Voters approved the Transportation Levy in November 2024
 - Levy spending (2025 appropriations) was added during Council's budget deliberations
- Council imposed a spending [proviso](#) in the 2025 budget
 - "No more than \$89,000,000 of the Transportation Levy Fund (10399) appropriations in the 2025 budget for the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) may be spent until authorized by future Council action. Council anticipates that such authorization would be granted after SDOT has proactively engaged the Council in the development of detailed spending plans for Transportation Levy programs."
 - \$89 million is half of the Transportation Levy appropriations in the 2025 budget.

Levy Spending Commitments

Authorizing legislation ([Ordinance 127053](#)) established 8-year total appropriation commitments for the 11 spending categories listed in Attachment A.

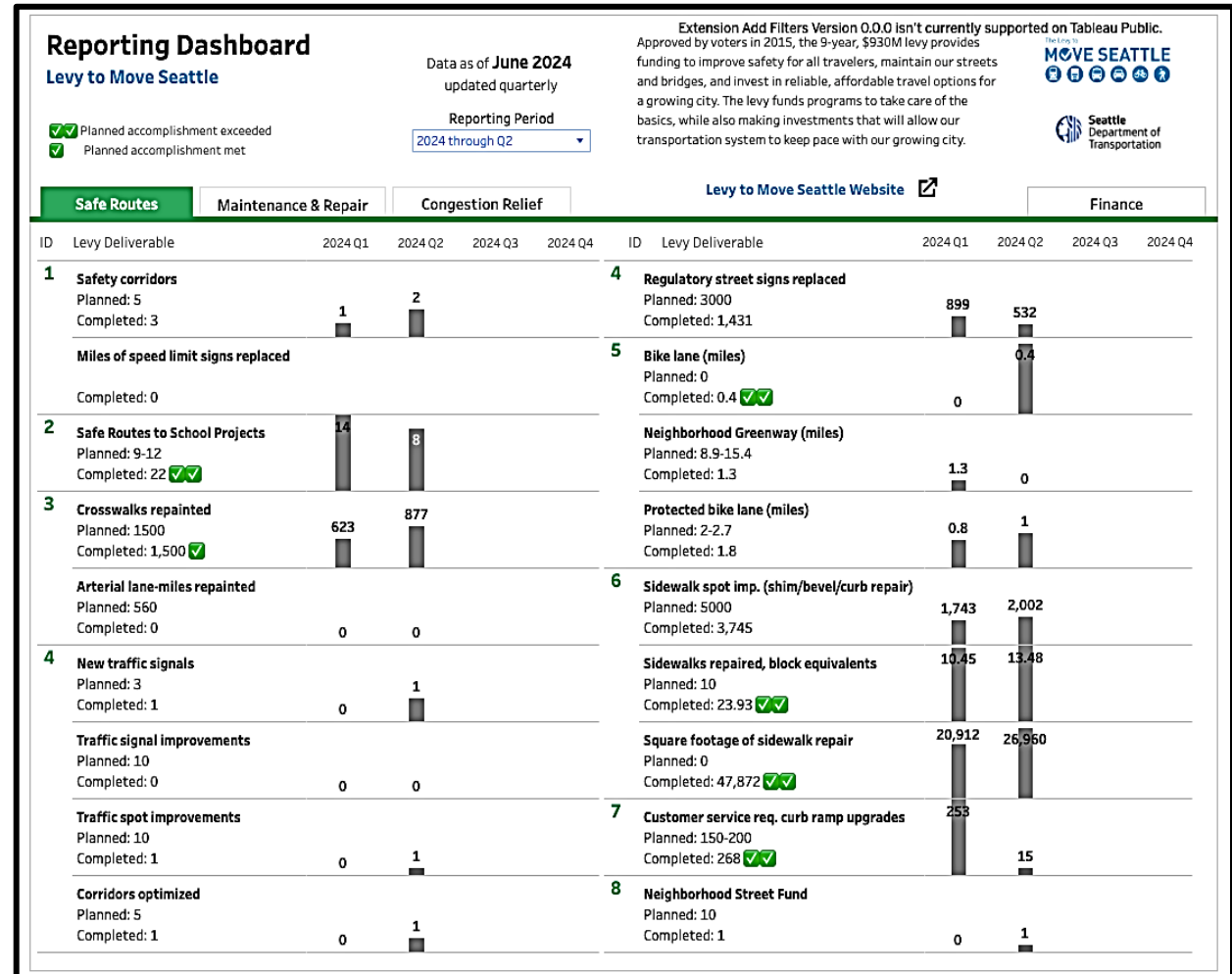
- \$160.5 million for [Vision Zero, School and Neighborhood Safety](#);
- \$403 million for [Street Maintenance and Modernization](#), including no less than \$330 million for [Arterial Roadway Maintenance](#);
- \$221 million for [Bridges and Structures](#);
- \$151 million for [Transit Corridors and Connections](#);
- \$193 million for [Pedestrian Safety](#), including no less than \$111 million for [New Sidewalks and Sidewalk Alternatives](#) and no less than \$34 million for [Sidewalk Safety Repair](#);
- \$100 million for [Signals and Operations](#);
- \$133.5 million for [Bicycle Safety](#);
- \$66.5 million for [People Streets and Public Spaces](#);
- \$69 million for [Climate and Resiliency](#), including no less than \$32 million for electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- \$45 million for [Freight and Goods Movement](#); and
- \$7.5 million for [Good Governance & Equitable Implementation Initiative](#).

Levy Spending Constraints & Oversight

- The 8-year total appropriations for each levy category may be changed:
 - By **up to ten percent** by ordinance after the Levy Oversight Committee has been given the opportunity to comment
 - By **more than 10 percent** by ordinance with a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Council
- **Levy Oversight Committee** – 19 members
 - Charged with monitoring levy implementation and advising Mayor, Council, and SDOT on levy spending and performance
 - Membership includes Transportation Chair, City Budget Director, 4 advisory board representatives (freight, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit), a youth Get Engaged member, 7 district residents appointed by Council, and 5 residents appointed by the Mayor
 - Applications for the Levy Oversight Committee closed on March 3

Reporting Requirements

- Levy requires an [annual progress report](#) on levy spending, including progress on Attachment A
- Levy requires SDOT to continue on-line dashboard reporting, similar to the [Levy to Move Seattle](#)



Transportation Funding Task Force

- Council approved formation of the Transportation Funding Task Force ([Resolution 32145](#)), contingent on passage of the Levy.
 - Review SDOT's approach to [asset management, asset conditions, and maintenance programs](#)
 - Explore and recommend [fundings strategies](#) in support of Levy spending and SDOT's long-term infrastructure needs
 - Task Force to begin work by June 1, 2025
 - Final report due by December 31, 2027