

February 24, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation & Seattle Public Utilities Committee
From: Calvin Chow, Analyst
Subject: Acceptance of property rights for John Lewis Memorial Bridge

On March 1, 2022, the Transportation & Seattle Public Utilities Committee will discuss and possibly vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 120271](#) that would accept various property rights related to the John Lewis Memorial Bridge and the associated pedestrian and bicycle path across Interstate-5. Acceptance of these property rights is necessary for the long-term operation of the bridge.

The John Lewis Memorial Bridge opened in October 2021 and provides a direct pedestrian and bicycle connection from North Seattle Community College (NSCC) to the Sound Transit Northgate Link light rail station. The bridge was constructed by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), and crosses property owned by NSCC, Sound Transit, and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

The proposed legislation would accept the following property rights:

- An easement for bike and pedestrian access from NSCC, which includes a cost-sharing agreement (of up to \$300,000) if improvements to manage parking on the NSCC campus are necessary within three years of operating the bridge. The easement would be terminated if the bike and pedestrian path is closed for a period of 24 months or longer, without a Council-approved plan to restore access within 36 months.
- An easement for bike and pedestrian access from Sound Transit. The easement would be terminated if the bike and pedestrian path is closed for a period of three continuous years.
- A trail lease for bike and pedestrian access from WSDOT, which allows for an initial 10-year term followed by three renewable 25-year terms. At the end of the contemplated 85-year total term, the lease would be converted to a month-to-month lease.

Aside from the cost-sharing agreement included in the NSCC easement, these property rights are provided at no cost to the City in consideration of mutual public benefits. Without these property rights, SDOT will lack authority for the long-term operation of the bridge.

cc: Esther Handy, Director
Aly Pennucci, Deputy Director