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CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE _____
COUNCIL BILL _____

..title

AN ORDINANCE relating to transportation; providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on November 3, 2015, a proposition authorizing the City to levy regular property taxes for up to nine years in excess of the limitation on levies in Chapter 84.55 RCW for the purpose of providing City facilities and services, including transportation improvements, both capital and operating, with possible debt financing; creating a new oversight committee; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

..body

WHEREAS, Seattle is one of the fastest-growing major cities in the country, gaining 100,000 new residents and more than 50,000 jobs in the last 20 years, and this growth is a boon to our economy and a test for our transportation system; and

WHEREAS, as Seattle’s Comprehensive Plan directs, two-thirds of these new residents and jobs have been located in urban centers and villages that are walkable and easy to serve with transit; and

WHEREAS, Seattle is currently updating its Comprehensive Plan for 2035 and the public feedback received to date supports continuing to concentrate Seattle’s growth in walkable, mixed-use, transit-rich urban villages; and

WHEREAS, public surveys and feedback continue to rank transportation as the highest priority issue area in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, Seattle is a built-out city where it is difficult to widen existing streets or build new streets, and the existing network of streets needs to be able to carry as much of the increasing numbers of people and goods as efficiently as possible; and

[WHEREAS, maintaining safe and accessible pedestrian routes for all residents is central to relieving congestion and improving mobility;](#)

1 ...

2 Section 1. Definitions. As used in this ordinance, the following words when capitalized
3 have the following meanings:

4 "City" means The City of Seattle.

5 "Director" means the Director of Finance.

6 "Levy Proceeds" means that portion of regular property taxes levied and collected as
7 authorized by voter approval pursuant to this ordinance that are above the growth limit on levies
8 in RCW 84.55.010, and all interest and other earnings thereon, and, if the City issues bonds,
9 notes, interfund loans, or other evidences of indebtedness payable wholly or in part from the
10 additional taxes authorized under this ordinance, as permitted by Section 4 of this ordinance,
11 then Levy Proceeds also includes the proceeds of those bonds, notes, interfund loans, or other
12 evidences of indebtedness.

13 "Spending Breakdown" means the categories and elements included as Attachment A to
14 this ordinance.

15 "Transportation Improvements" means the categories and program areas referred to in
16 Section 6, with such modifications as the City may from time to time authorize by ordinance.

17 ...

18 Section 6. Transportation Improvements. Transportation improvements will occur in
19 four categories: safety, interconnectivity, affordability, and vibrancy. The projects and program
20 areas listed under the categories below are representative of the activities that will be undertaken
21 within each.

- 22 1. Safety
 - 23 • Bridges & Structures
 - 24 i. Bridge and Structures Maintenance

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- ii. Bridge Seismic Improvements
- iii. Bridge Replacement
- Vision Zero
 - i. Safety Corridors
 - ii. Safe Routes to School
 - iii. Signs and Markings
 - iv. Transportation Operations
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety
 - i. Sidewalk Repair
 - ii. Protected Bicycle Facilities & Neighborhood Greenways

2. Affordability

- Street Maintenance
 - i. Arterial Roadway Maintenance
 - ii. Paving Spot Improvements

3. Interconnectivity

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements
 - i. Curb Ramps and Crossing Improvements
 - ii. New Sidewalks
- Light Rail Partnership Improvements
- Corridor Mobility Improvements
 - i. Multimodal Improvements
 - ii. Transit—Speed and Reliability Improvements & Bus Rapid Transit
 - iii. Signal Maintenance & Optimization
 - iv. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

4. Vibrancy

- Neighborhood Projects
- Tree Trimming and Planting
- Drainage Partnerships
- Freight Mobility Improvements
 - i. Spot Improvements
 - ii. Partnership Improvements – Lander Street Overpass
 - iii. Heavy Haul Network – E Marginal Way

The Spending Breakdown (Attachment A) provides additional information about the anticipated deliverables, anticipated spending amounts, and the anticipated revenue sources.

Both the Spending Breakdown and the program elements described in this section These

Amendment 8 – Elements (CM Rasmussen)

~~Cheryl Swab~~ [Peter Lindsay](#)

SDOT Transportation Levy ORD

~~May 6, 2015~~ [June 2, 2015](#)

#D2

1 | ~~programs~~ are illustrative examples. In the annual City budget or by separate ordinance, the City
2 | shall from year-to-year determine the Transportation Improvements and funding allocations that
3 | will most effectively achieve the Levy goals and outcomes. Within a budget year the City is
4 | authorized to reallocate unexpended and unencumbered funds from one core strategy to another
5 | by making operating budget transfers consistent with Seattle Municipal Code 5.08.020.
6 |

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~~May 6, 2015~~ [June 2, 2015](#)
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1 **Attachment A: Spending Breakdown**

2 **Transportation Levy to Move Seattle**

3 Revised Levy Proposal Spending Breakdown – Additional Detail

4 Updated May 12, 2015

5 The Seattle Department of Transportation anticipates spending the following cumulative amounts in the
 6 following project and program areas over the 9 years of the levy, with annual appropriations to be set
 7 through the City budget every year. Leverage is estimated and includes other non-levy funding
 8 expected to be secured to complete the deliverable under each project or program area. Leverage
 9 includes a mix of state and federal grants, public and private partner contributions, and other revenues.

Category	Levy Investment	Leverage
Safe City <i>Eliminate serious and fatal crashes and reduce the risk of people being injured through failing infrastructure</i>	\$321M	\$108M
Vision Zero – Implement program to eliminate serious and fatal crashes	\$71M	\$17M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Corridors: Complete 12 – 15 corridor safety projects, improving safety for all travelers on our highest-crash streets 	\$23M	\$3M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe Routes to School: Complete 9 – 12 Safe Routes to School projects each year along with safety education, improving walking and biking safety at every public school in Seattle. 	\$7M	\$7M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs and Markings: Increase crosswalk repainting frequency to a four-year or better cycle to ensure every crosswalk is clearly marked. 	\$4M	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Operations: Maintain and improve the City’s system of traffic signals, signs and markings. 	\$37M	\$7M
Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety – protect our most vulnerable travelers – people walking and biking	\$110M	\$23M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicycle Safety: Build approximately 50 miles of new protected bike lanes and 60 miles of greenways, completing over half of the Bicycle Master Plan citywide network 	\$65M	\$20M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian Safety: Repair up to 225 blocks of damaged sidewalks in our urban centers and villages 	\$15M	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrian Safety: Make curb ramp and crossing improvements at up to 750 intersections citywide 	\$30M	\$3M
Bridges and Structures – keep our bridges safe	\$140M	\$68M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridge and Structures Maintenance: Eliminate the backlog of needed bridge spot repairs 	\$25M	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridge Seismic Improvements: Seismically reinforce 16 vulnerable bridges 	\$68M	\$37M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridge Replacement: Replace Seattle’s last timber vehicle bridge (on Fairview Avenue) 	\$27M	\$16M

Category	Levy Investment	Leverage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridge Replacement: Plan and design high priority bridge replacements to begin construction after 2024 	\$15M	\$15M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridge and Structures Maintenance: Other bridge safety investments including stairway and structure repair and rehabilitation 	\$5M	-
Affordable City		
<i>Provide high-quality, low-cost travel options for everyone, better coordinate and leverage public and private investments, and better preserve existing infrastructure</i>	\$250M	\$19M
Maintain streets	\$250M	\$19M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arterial Roadway Maintenance: Repave up to 180 lane-miles of arterial streets, maintaining and modernizing 35% of Seattle’s busiest streets carrying the most people and goods (also funded through the 7 enhanced transit corridors, below) 	\$235M	\$19M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paving Spot Improvements: Repave 65 targeted locations every year, totaling about 70 lane-miles of arterial street, with a repair and maintenance program run by City crews 	\$15M	-
Interconnected City		
<i>Provide an easy-to-use, reliable transportation system that gives travelers the options they want when they want them</i>	\$264M	\$257M
Corridor Mobility Improvements – modernize streets	\$169M	\$218M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multimodal Improvements: Complete 7 transit plus multimodal corridor projects, redesigning major streets with more frequent and reliable buses, upgraded paving, signals and other improvements to improve connectivity and safety for all travelers, whether walking, biking, driving, or taking transit; complete the Burke Gilman Trail missing link and Fauntleroy Way Southwest Boulevard projects, develop plans to enhance the I-5 crossing for pedestrians and bikes in the NE 45th St Corridor and plan corridor improvements for Aurora Ave N. 	\$104M	\$211M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic Signal Timing Improvements: Optimize traffic signal timing on 5 corridors throughout the city each year to improve traffic flow and serve people in cars and trucks, on bicycles, transit, and foot 	\$13M	\$1M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intelligent Transportation System Improvements: Implement Next Generation ITS Improvements to help all travelers move more reliably around the city and provide improved information for travelers 	\$17M	\$6M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transit Corridor Improvements: Make bus service more reliable through a comprehensive transit improvement program to eliminate bottlenecks in key locations and contribute to the transit improvements on 7 transit plus corridors including planning for access and egress improvements to the West Seattle peninsula. 	\$35M	-

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Amendment 8 – Elements (CM Rasmussen)

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Category	Levy Investment	Leverage
Light Rail Partnership Improvements – improve connections to light rail	\$27M	\$10M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light Rail Connections: Provide City funding contribution for a new Link Light rail station at Graham Street in southeast Seattle 	\$10M	TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northgate Bridge: Provide additional City funding for a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over I-5 connecting to light rail in Northgate 	\$15M	\$10M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light Rail Connections: Implement early portions of the accessible Mt. Baker project 	\$2M	-
Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements – make it easier to walk and bike	\$68M	\$29M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Sidewalks: Build 150 new blocks of sidewalks, filling in more than 75% of the sidewalk gaps on priority transit corridors citywide with an emphasis on creating accessible routes for those with disabilities and for the elderly Bicycle and Walking Facilities: Make residential streets without sidewalks safer and more comfortable for walking, including through partnership with Seattle Public Utilities in the flood-prone Broadview neighborhood 	\$61M	\$28M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicycle and Walking Facilities: Install 1,500 new bicycle parking spots citywide and maintain existing bike facilities Bicycle and Walking Facilities: Other biking and walking investments 	\$7M	\$1M
Vibrant City <i>Invest in streets and sidewalks that hum with economic and social activity</i>	\$95M	\$180M
Freight Mobility Improvements – freight and delivery	\$39M	\$170M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership Improvements: Provide local money to design and build the Lander Street Overpass 	\$20M	\$130M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy Haul Network: Build the East Marginal Way corridor, a key route in Seattle’s Heavy Haul Network 	\$5M	\$37M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot Improvements: Fund a targeted spot improvement program to help freight movement 	\$14M	\$3M
Neighborhood projects	\$26M	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighborhood Projects: Complete 20-35 neighborhood priority projects to improve safety, mobility and access and quality of life in those neighborhoods 	\$26M	-
Urban forest and drainage	\$30M	\$10M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree Trimming: Add a new tree crew focused on quick response to critical pruning needs (such as clearances for people biking and walking, and at transit stops) and on ensuring clear sightlines to traffic signals and signs Tree Planting: Replace every tree removed due to disease or safety with two new trees 	\$20M	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage Partnership: Partner with Seattle Public Utilities to pave streets, provide new pedestrian infrastructure and crossings, and address drainage issues in flood-prone South Park neighborhood 	\$10M	\$10M

[Totals may not sum properly due to rounding.](#)

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