

Levy to Move Seattle Oversight Committee Meeting

[Levy Oversight Committee bylaws – adopted April 2017](#)

[Move Seattle Levy legislation, approved June 29, 2015](#)

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 / 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Co-chairs: Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Ron Posthuma

Location: Video Conference

Members present on the phone: Ron Posthuma, Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Joseph Laubach, Samuel Ferrara, Patrick Taylor, Kevin Werner, Vicky Clarke, David Seater, Lisa Bogardus, Inga Manskopf, Jen Malley-Crawford, Councilmember (CM) Alex Pederson

Members Absent: Todd Biesold, Hester Serebrin

Guests: Rachel McCaffrey, Lorelei Williams, Matt Gemberling, Tracy Krawczyk, Joanna Valencia, Anya Pintak, Kyle Butler, Kris Castleman, David Conway, Nico Martinucci, Brian Sperry (all SDOT), Toby Thaler (aid to CM Alex Pedersen), Elliot Helmbrecht (Mayor's Office), Riz Rizwi (Transportation Equity Workgroup, TEW), Ryan Packer (The Urbanist), Sarah Udelhofen (Seattle Bike Advisory Board), Kevin O'Neil, Ellany Kayce (TEW), Heidi Groover (Seattle Times), Karia Wong (TEW), Joanna Cullen, Steven Sawyer (TEW), Bradford Shaffer, Erica Barnett (The C is for Crank), Qingyang Xie, Sokunthea Ok, An Huynh (TEW), Jeff Lundstrom

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:02 PM

Agenda item #1: Welcome and roll call, including guests from the Transportation Equity Workgroup

Rachel B: Conducted a roll call for committee members. SDOT staff introduced themselves. And other guests introduced themselves.

Public Comment:

Ron P: Anyone want to give public comment?

Ryan P: Regarding the COVID-19 Impact Assessment report the central business district was paused and I haven't seen that elsewhere. The 2018 Workplan Report shows that work has been completed. Also, 2019 was the worst year in over a decade for fatalities. And 2020 has really been worrying regarding the number of fatalities. And it doesn't appear this oversight committee is addressing this.

Ron P: Maybe SDOT can address these concerns in their presentation tonight.

Agenda item #2: COVID-19 Impact levy Assessment - presentation and discussion

Lorelei Williams provided some background on the budget that was recently adopted by City Council, including restoration for a number of Levy projects and next steps for the \$60 Vehicle License Fee (VLF) funds.

Tracy Krawczyk briefly reviewed the recommendations captured in the COVID-19 Impact Assessment: Levy to Move Seattle. The recommendations include restoring two Vision Zero projects (1st Ave S Safety Corridor and Central Business District Safety Improvements) in the Safe Routes category, restoration of four projects (23rd Ave Corridor Phase 3, New Sidewalks: 24th Ave SW - SPU Longfellow Partnership, S Brandon St, and 32nd Ave S) in the Congestion Relief category, and no restoration of any of the seven project paused in the Maintenance & Repair category.

CM Pedersen: Thanks for everyone that has provided input. I look forward to working with Transit Advisory Board (TAB), Levy Oversight Committee (LOC), and Transportation Equity Workgroup (TEW) on the VLF.

Rachel M: We provided discussion questions along with the report last week as a way to guide your attention during review and we can walk through those now.

1. Are there any elements of the report that need further explanation or should be added to the final document to better clarify this objective?

No feedback

2. Are there any LOC recommendations that you feel are not reflected in the COVID-19 assessment report?

No feedback

3. Do you agree with the four priority projects recommended to be restored in the COVID-19 Impact Assessment report?

Inga M: Sometimes it's hard to find project information on the SDOT website. Some projects have a lot of information and others don't have much information at all.

Lorelei W: We generally have more information about the larger capital projects, and the annual program projects are more described in the levy reporting document.

Jen M: Asked about limitations with funding and VLF funds having a transit focus.

Vicky C: It looks like a million dollars was restored by council for the Route 7 sidewalks. What else can be restored since the assessment also recommended restoration of this Route 7 sidewalk work?

Lorelei W: All 30 levy programs have levy money assigned to them. For paused projects, there is a reduction in those programs. There is some flexibility to move money between levy categories. To your point Vicky, we need to take \$1M less from NSF because council restored \$1M for this project.

Vicky C: Are all the projects scored and could you simply go to the next project on the list?

Tracy K: We didn't do a comprehensive ranking of projects. We did a qualitative assessment based on the values and factors that we developed in coordination with this committee earlier this year.

Vicky C: I noticed in your presentation you referred back to the 2018 goals but I think we need to keep the original 2015 goals in mind. I think reprogramming funding to the Vision Zero goals is a good move and I support funding those Vision Zero projects.

Ellany K: Did you include any community members to get direct feedback on these decisions?

Tracy K: We did not conduct outreach as we had to develop the assessment on the budget timeline but many program owners have had ongoing community outreach as part of their program implementation.

Jen M: Are the Neighborhood Street Fund (NSF) and VLF the primary buckets of money for restoring projects?

Lorelei W: Yes.

Jen M: How many of these projects can be restored and be aligned with Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD) goals. This approach could leave more money for the NSF program.

Lorelei W: I would say only the 23rd Ave Phase 3 project, but it's a lot of money.

Jen M: If the VLFs funded the \$4.3M cost for the 23rd Ave Phase 3 project, could we deliver the NSF program?

Lorelei W: Yes.

Jen M: The Transit Advisory Board would support use of VLF funding for transit related work.

4. Is there anything you would change in the projects recommended to be restored? Are there projects that are not recommended for restoration that you believe should be restored? If so, how do you propose achieving that restoration (e.g., fund source and projects to be removed from restoration list)?

Joe L: The Fauntleroy Blvd project could be restored or revisited because the Sound Transit project could experience delays.

Lorelei W: We have done some spot improvements on Fauntleroy Blvd and we have discussed doing more work in this area as it's related to the West Seattle Bridge repair project. The Fauntleroy Blvd project is very costly and we are concerned about doing this project if Sound Transit's project is implemented later and impacts those improvements.

5. Do you have any concerns with the proposed use of the NSF's third round of funding (\$6M+) to restore the projects recommended in the draft assessment?

Sam F: Projects for the third round of NSF funding have not been identified or scoped yet. Therefore, I think it is better to reallocate the third round of NSF funding as opposed to pausing other identified and scoped projects that are already in the levy work plan.

Rachel B: Do we need to put our assessment report feedback in writing?

Lorelei W: Our plan is to finalize the assessment report and recommendations so that we can create our delivery plan for next year.

Ellany K: I know you have to make decisions but are you going to conduct any community engagement before making decisions. I am very concerned about how these decisions are being made and who is making them.

Lorelei W: We have been working with a set of projects that are in the levy work plan and many projects have had some level of past community outreach. We did not plan to do outreach as we have been working with this committee and the TEW. We also conducted a full Racial Equity Toolkit analysis on the assessment.

Rachel B: What's a full Racial Equity Toolkit?

Lorelei W: It's an assessment of how we have considered equity in prioritization and implementation of investments.

Tracy K: This also helps us identify areas for engagement and improvement in how we prioritize work within the levy program.

6. Do you believe there are other or unforeseen equity implications that will impact Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and vulnerable communities related to the remaining paused projects or the proposed funding source for project restoration not adequately addressed in the report and racial equity analysis?

Kevin W: The report was a lot of information. The map in the report that showed the paused project locations and the overlaid equity categories was helpful.

Ellany K: I haven't had time to review the 46 page report as I am on other committees.

Lorelei W: We are seeking feedback on the assessment report by the end of the year but we can continue our work with the TEW on the future levy delivery.

7. Are there recommendations you'd like to provide the Transit Advisory Board in considering the VLF \$60 funds to restore Levy projects?

Jen M: The TAB believes that Move Seattle projects that fit these types of transit enhancement projects could be funded by VLFs. In my reading of the draft Levy Assessment Report, I believe there are a few other projects that fit these descriptions that might be able to be funded by VLFs (though I may be reading that incorrectly).

Patrick T: What is the \$23.7M VLF funding to be used for?

Lorelei W: There's only a portion for capital. There's also operating costs.

Vicky C: What are you looking for from us? Who decides about the VLF money?

Lorelei W: Yes, we would like to know what the LOC recommends. Ultimately, SDOT will take a proposal back to the TAB. And the TAB will review and amend SDOT's recommendation as needed.

Vicky C: If there's any way to continue the third cycle of NSF that would be great.

Joe L: Table 11 on page 36 shows the revised goal for bike facility and not the original levy goals. These tables should mention the original levy goals.

Lorelei W: We can try to capture that nuance but we are open to revising this.

Brian S: When we complete the 2nd cycle of NSF projects, we will have met the original levy goal of delivering 20 to 35 projects.

Elliot H: What are the committees' thoughts on using a portion, like \$700K, of the NSF third cycle funds for the Vision Zero projects that are recommended for restoration. It sounds like TAB may be supportive of using the VLF \$60 for the 23rd Ave Phase 3 project restoration.

Sam F: That seems to align with the LOC's previous recommendations if the VLF \$60 funds the 23rd Ave Phase 3 project.

Inga M: I agree.

Lorelei W: If the VLF funding does not work out for the 23rd Ave project then what does the LOC think? Do we prefer to restore the 23rd Ave project using NSF third cycle funding and have very little remaining for a third NSF cycle of projects?

Rachel B: I want to see 23rd Ave get completed as we already stated that projects that have started should have priority over projects that have not started.

Sam F: I would lean towards restoring the 23rd Ave project as the third round of NSF projects have not been identified or defined yet.

Joe L: The NSF projects have high overhead in planning and the outreach process and we'll get more bang for our buck with 23rd Ave project.

Agenda item #3: LOC action/response on recently transmitted briefing memos

November 5: Levy funding for [Stay Healthy Streets](#)

Rachel B: Do we know what the residents think about having their streets used for this purpose? I've heard of fear of race-based harm when driving home on a Stay Healthy Street.

Lorelei W: If a street is not used for traffic there is concern for safety with a different way of using the street.

Sokunthea O: It's really important to go to the community to talk to them.

Riz R: Because so many streets were closed down, a lot of cars drove through them anyway. And pedestrians could be assuming there's no traffic, which could cause an unsafe condition. And by closing so many streets, it caused congestion in other areas.

Ellany K: If you have a lot of people that are not from Seattle, they could be confused. And who decides which streets get closed?

Lorelei W: We made those decisions using the best available information we have. The closures are not permanent. We are going to continue to do more community outreach and assess these issues.

Patrick T: The bike board has not had outreach on this yet.

Vicky C: It feels like there is some important information missing as to how these streets will be made permanent.

November 16: [Bridge Seismic Program, Concept Design Report Memorandum](#)

Lorelei W: We always have the option to do some seismic improvements on each bridge. The recommendations in the memo would get us a higher level of reinforcement for most bridges.

Sam F: I concur with the plan to continue with the nine bridges that fit within the budget. I would like to know what the plan is for the other three bridges.

Lorelei W: We are working on a full bridge and structures asset management work plan by 2023 and we can talk about the plan for those three bridges as we develop this asset management work plan.

Vicky C: Is there a relationship between the council's bridge funding and this recommendation?

CM Pedersen: The council proposal for the VLF was on bridge maintenance and this is for seismic reinforcements.

Inga M: Is there funding for the other three bridges?

Lorelei W: Unfortunately, no, and that is why we need to develop the full bridge and structures asset management work plan and then look for funding.

Rachel B: Is there committee concurrence on the memo recommendations? I think we go along with this as I'm not hearing any disagreement with what Sam F recommended.

Agenda item #4: Committee business

LOC Secretary nominations and vote

Rachel B: Kevin Werner has agreed to be secretary.

Inga M: I nominate Kevin Werner.

Ron P: Seconded the motion.

Committee vote: Approved Kevin Werner for the secretary position.

2021 LOC meeting schedule and current roster

Rachel M: I will email out the calendar and roster. February 2nd will be the next committee meeting.

Adjourn: 6:59 PM

Action items

Action items below capture tasks from previous meetings. Completed items will remain on action item tracker for one additional set of meeting minutes to capture "complete" status and will then be removed.

Action item	Meeting	Lead	Status	Deadline