

Levy to Move Seattle Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Thursday, January 25, 2018 / 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Co-chairs: Betty Spieth-Croll

Recorder: Elliot Helmbrecht

Location: City Hall, L280

Members Present: Joe Laubach, Blake Trask, Brian Estes, Alex Krieg, Betty Spieth-Croll, Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Saroja Reddy (for Ben Noble), David Seater, Emily Paine, Ron Posthuma, Laurie Torres, Hal Cooper (for Pat Cohn)

Members Absent: Nick Paranjpye, Katie Garrow, Rachel Ben-Shmuel

Guests: Mike Terrell, Karen Melanson, Brian Sperry, Darby Watson, Jeff Lundstrom, Nick Makhani (all SDOT)

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: 5:35pm

Public comment (2 min. per person)

Doug MacDonald (public comment was given at the end of the meeting):

“The Oversight Committee’s own work plan should take up SDOT’s levy program management challenges, not just tally project deliverables.

SDOT’s development of a master work plan with updated realistic scope, schedule, budget, spending plans and portfolio risk management approaches as recommended by CDM and now written into the Office of Move Seattle critical success factors.

SDOT’s development of program management analysis and portfolio risk management practices.

November 2017 meeting minutes

November meeting minutes were approved by the committee.

Co-chair report

- **Nominate new committee co-chair**

Betty: Nominated Alex Krieg to fill the vacant committee co-chair role.

Brian: Motioned to approve Alex as the new committee co-chair and to serve with Betty.

Full committee approves Alex Krieg to serve as co-chair for the next two years.

Alex: Appreciates the opportunity and looking forward to serving as co-chair with Betty as the levy begins the third year.

- **Annual committee report**

Betty: If you're interested in being involved in the next steps and drafting the committee's annual letter, a small group will likely be formed to complete this work over the next few months. Let co-chairs or Elliot know if you're interested.

Brian: Would like annual report to include more outcome-related measures.

- **Levy portfolio management report follow-up**

Alex: We will be discussing this report and its findings at our meeting in February. He encourages committee members to review this document before our next meeting.

Brian: Report pretty significant findings related to spending and project delivery. He also encourages everyone to take a read before the meeting in February.

Modal Board Representative Updates

Ped: Pike/Pine Renaissance project and changes coming to corridor. SDOT staff to discuss NE 65th St project. Continuing to work on annual report as a Board.

Bike: Students from Major Taylor Project from Cascade, group rides for HS age students in S end schools. Importance of Swift/Myrtle/Othello corridor paving project including PBLs. Early stages of level of stress analysis.

Transit: Briefing on 65th Roosevelt station, lots of challenges in this area.

Freight: Hal Cooper filling in for Pat Cohn. Discussing One Center City project. Responding to PSRC transportation plan. RapidRide challenges to the program.

Director's Message

Betty introduced SDOT's new Interim Director, Goran Sparrman.

Goran: Introduced himself to the committee and briefly discussed his work history before coming to SDOT as the Interim Director three weeks ago. He is very excited to be in his new-ish role (he has previously served as Interim SDOT Director) and has been getting up to speed on all of the department's projects and programs. He has had one deep-dive briefing on the Levy to Move Seattle and is looking forward to getting into the details. He knows that the voters put a lot of trust in SDOT when they approved the \$930 million levy in 2015 and he thanked the Oversight Committee for their hard work and engagement on the committee. He then opened it up for questions.

Hal: Are you worried about the dependence on federal money for ST3?

Goran: He cannot speak for ST, but he assumes they are also very concerned about the federal situation. It's tough to know what the FTA is thinking and who is making decisions, so time will tell.

Brian: The CDM Smith levy performance report raised some important questions. Does this concern you?

Goran: I am digging into the issues and asking for more tools to equip SDOT staff to make smart choices.

Brian: I would like the levy to be more focused on outcome based measures, with more emphasis on performance-based outcomes.

Goran: I agree. We need to show people not just how we are building projects, but how we provide safe, efficient choices for people – and how that impacts their life.

Hal: Does the city have a direct role in grade separations over the RR?

Goran: The city has a role and mentions Lander as an example of a grade-separated project we're working on, and excited to finally begin building. He also mentions price as a major factor when looking at grade-separated projects.

Betty: What are your long-term plans? Any interest in the open SDOT Director position?

Goran: I am focused on being a good Interim Director and I am not seeking the position of Director. I will be involved in helping find a permanent Director for the DOT.

Betty: We appreciate you coming tonight, so early in your tenure. And we also feel the weight of the levy and the importance to the city.

2018 Draft Work Plan Lookahead

The committee reviewed the Draft Work Plan handout detailing 2018 work in various levy programs and projects. Annual deliverable and milestone targets will be finalized at our February Oversight Committee meeting. Progress updates will be delivered to the Committee quarterly.

Projects included in the handout and discussed during the presentation were not a full list of all levy-funded projects, but rather a selection for tracking and accountability purposes.

The committee will get final 2018 deliverable targets at the February meeting.

Darby: Provided details about 2018 protected bike lane projects. 2nd Ave and 7th Ave projects were originally scheduled for 2017 but will be constructed this year. Of the other projects on the list, 35th Ave NE project is getting the most attention for neighbors and surrounding businesses.

Brian: I would like to get bike counter data for levy-funded projects that is available.

Darby: Started off talking about the greenways projects and how after three years we are scheduled to be 27% of the way to our 9-year goal. This will require a few more projects to catch up to where we need to be but she feels good about the projects on the list for 2018. Several of the greenway projects will be crew-delivered this year.

David: Mentioned the evaluation of existing greenways being done and Darby said she would be sure the committee gets it when it is finalized.

Alex: Asked for more information about levy programs that are ahead of schedule, not just those behind.

Darby: In terms of our 9-year goal, after three years the paving program is forecasted to be almost 50% towards the 180 lane-mile goal.

Brian Sperry: This is a program benefiting from project acceleration. We are getting projects out to Ad much sooner in 2018 than we did in 2017. Both 35th and University projects went out to Ad yesterday. Our last contract is scheduled to go to Ad in March this year, in 2017 we were still putting them out in June.

CM Mike O'Brien: Asked why this program has been consistent and achieving a lot in the first three years compared to the other programs.

Elliot: The levy prioritized cheaper, easier projects early in the levy while larger projects that involved more design took time. We do not expect these kinds of numbers over the entire nine years.

Blake: Asked why 4th Ave PBL project was not included in the PBL list.

Darby: In terms of 4th Avenue, we don't have it on that slide because it's still tied up in the final approval of the OCC near term action plan and MOU. Until the partners all sign that agreement, which is waiting consideration by various governing bodies, we don't want to make assumptions. I know we're all eager to see them confirm the projects and move ahead.

Emily: Asked about the Swift/Myrtle/Othello paving project on the list and its relation to the PBL project.

Darby:

Darby: New sidewalks are progressing well three years into the levy. The Mayor's office had the department accelerate sidewalk construction early in the levy.

Darby: In terms of capital projects, Fairview Ave Bridge project required permits from about 14 different agencies. Lots of risk associated with this project timeline. Delridge RR has no federal funding and that project is moving full steam ahead. Madison and Roosevelt BRT include federal funding and that situation is tenuous.

Alex: When will SDOT have a plan for managing the RapidRide program in this era of federal uncertainty?

Darby: We owe a response to Council and we are actively working on alternate plans if federal money doesn't materialize. We hope to have those for the committee to discuss soon.

2018 Key Strategies

Brian Sperry:

Alternative contracting methods: New Scope-Bid Build, Job Order Contract (JOC), Pilot Task Order Public Works (TOPs)

A new SDOT hire in capital projects from the city's contracting division (developed the Scope Bid Build Contract over the last 2 years and is currently developing the TOPs Pilot contract) will significantly help improve project delivery through new contracting techniques.

Benefits include 6 to 10 months time savings getting projects to construction and frees up design resources to work on new projects.

Types of projects that are a good fit for these contracting methods, include: smaller projects with limited construction risks, curb ramps, Greenways, channelization projects like adding bikes lanes (non-PBLs), spot improvements for various programs like PMP and Transit.

Some challenges and constraints include new contract methods that SDOT staff and contractors are less familiar with.

Contract capacities are \$2M to \$15M annually for all three methods.

We are accelerating the Planning all 11 Bridge Seismic retrofit projects that have not yet started. Completing the planning in 2018 will result in identifying the scope requirements, cost estimates and risks for each project.

Earlier programmatic completion of planning and design to facilitate contract advertisement earlier in the year resulting in construction completion during the prime paving season to avoid over winter weather delays.

Hiring: We have hired 33 Move Seattle position in the last six months. We have 10 remaining hires. In the interim while hiring was taking place, SDOT used consultant contractors.

Betty: I would like more context and details about the levy ramp up. It seems like this is a structural/fundamental issue that would be good to have more information about so the next levy can learn from this one's first few years.

2018 Lookahead Calendar

Oversight Committee meetings (5:30 – 7:30 pm, City Hall L280)

- Thursday, February 22
- *Possible meeting or retreat in March because of a full schedule in February*

- Thursday, May 24
- Thursday, August 23
- Thursday, October 4
- Thursday, November 29

Finance subcommittee meetings (9:00 – 10:00 am, Seattle Municipal Tower 3854)

- Thursday, February 8
- Thursday, May 10
- Thursday, August 9
- Thursday, September 20
- Thursday, November 15

New business

No new business.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 7:15 PM